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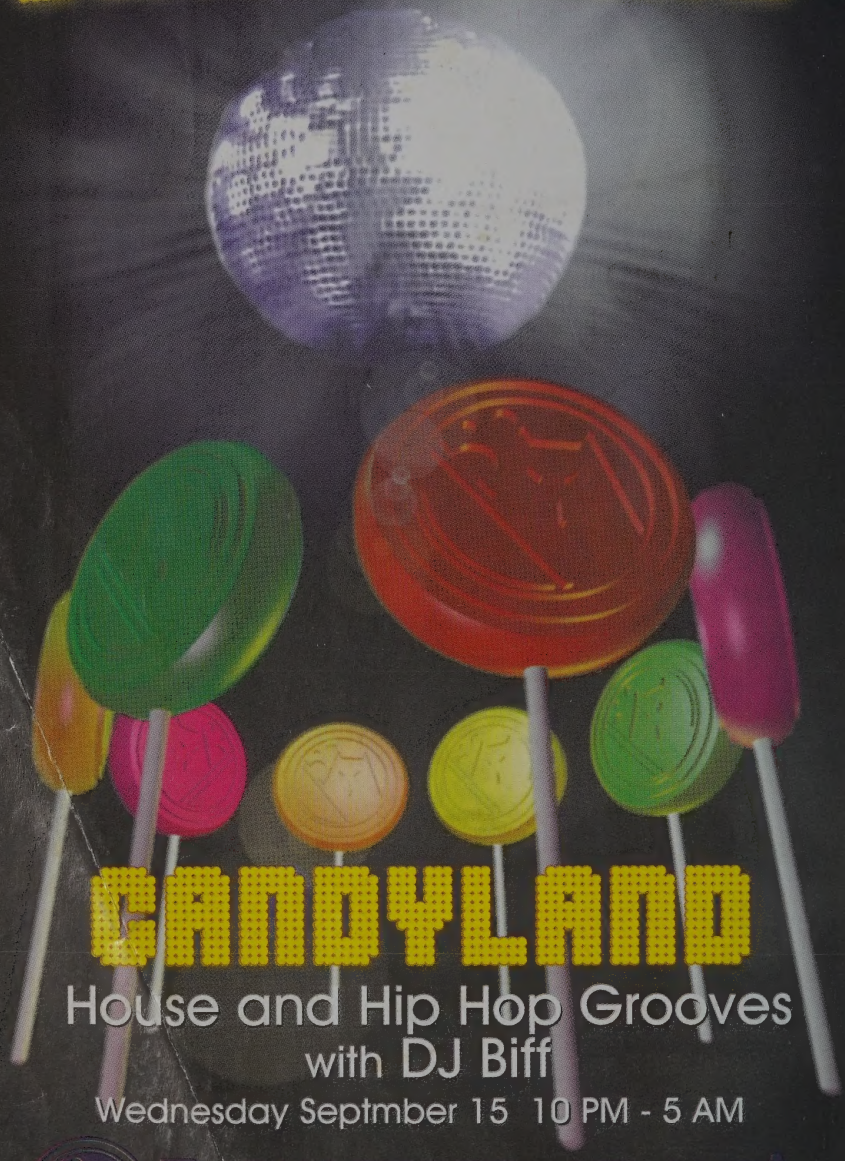

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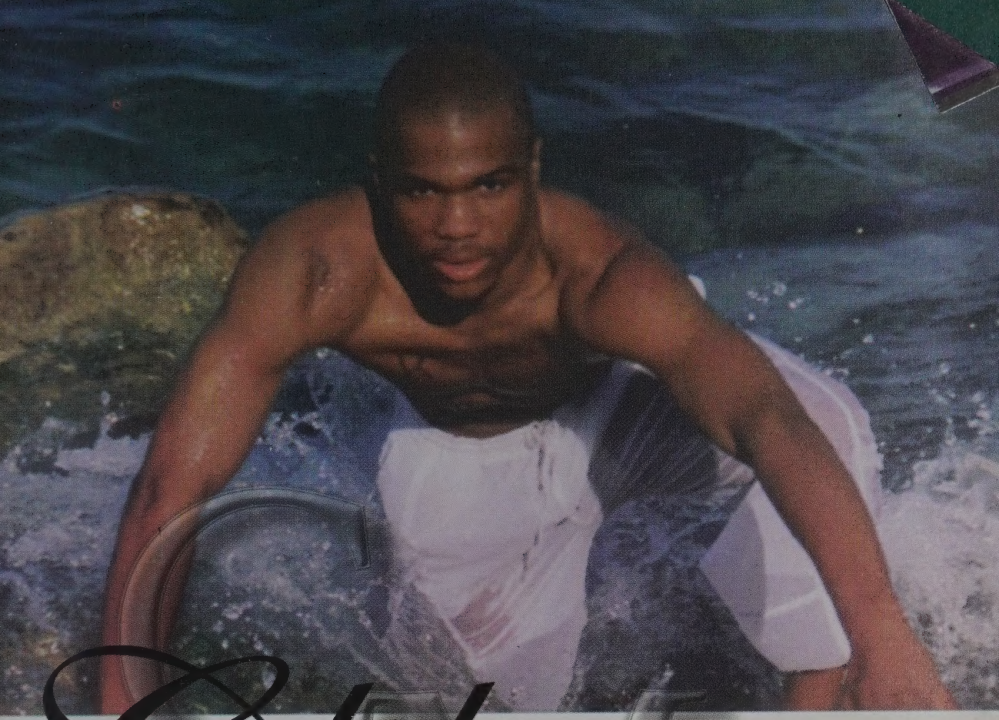

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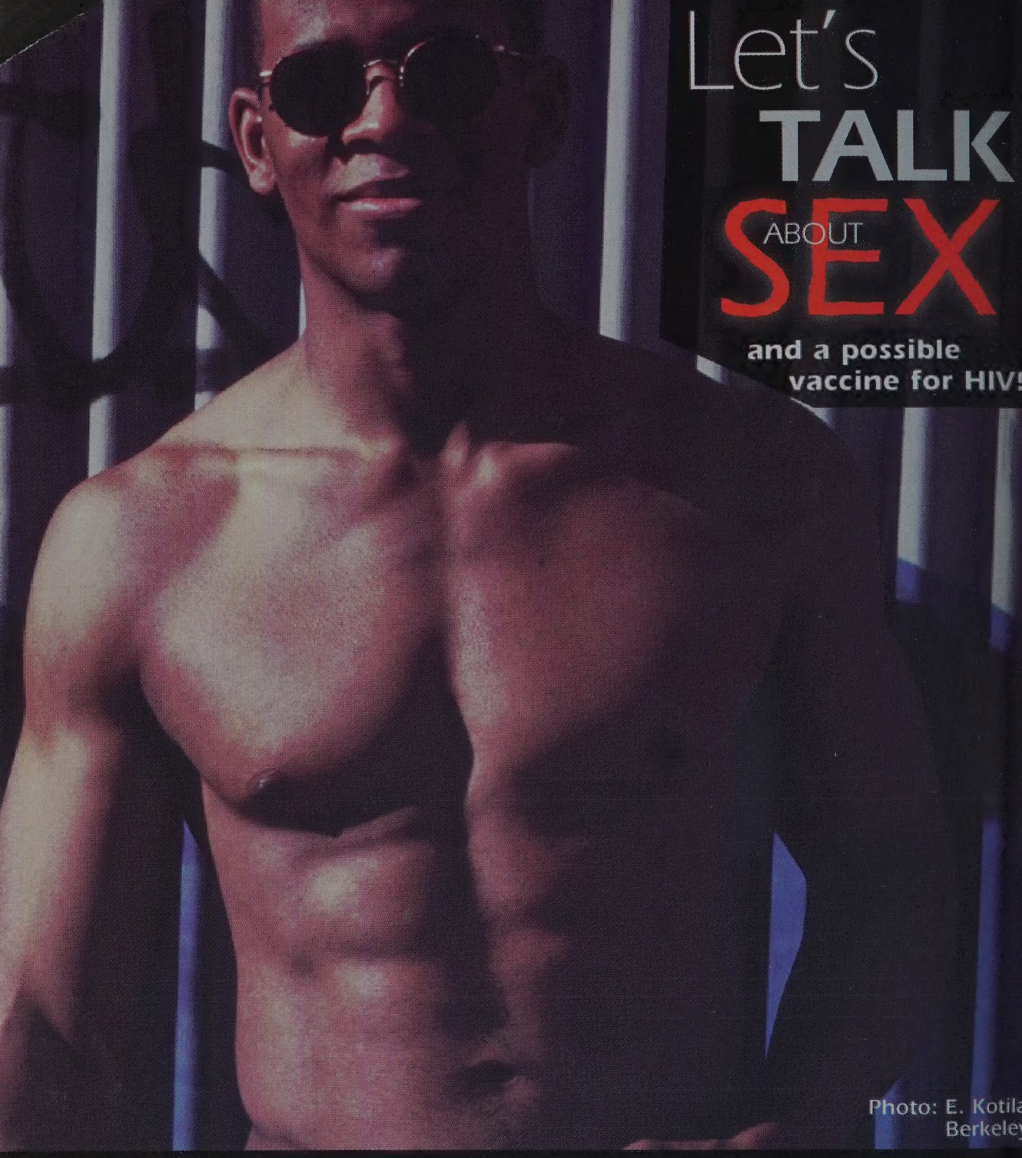

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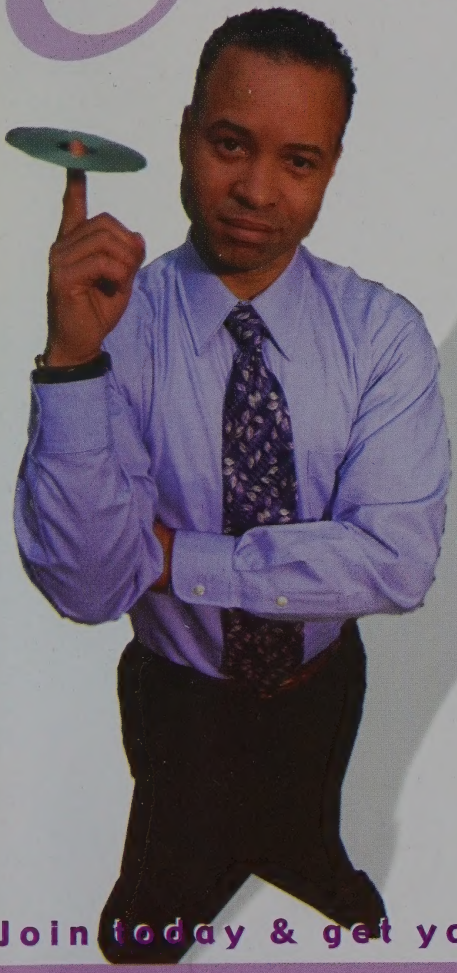

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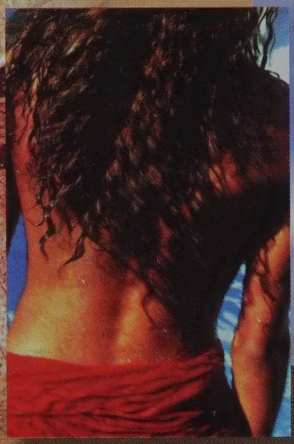

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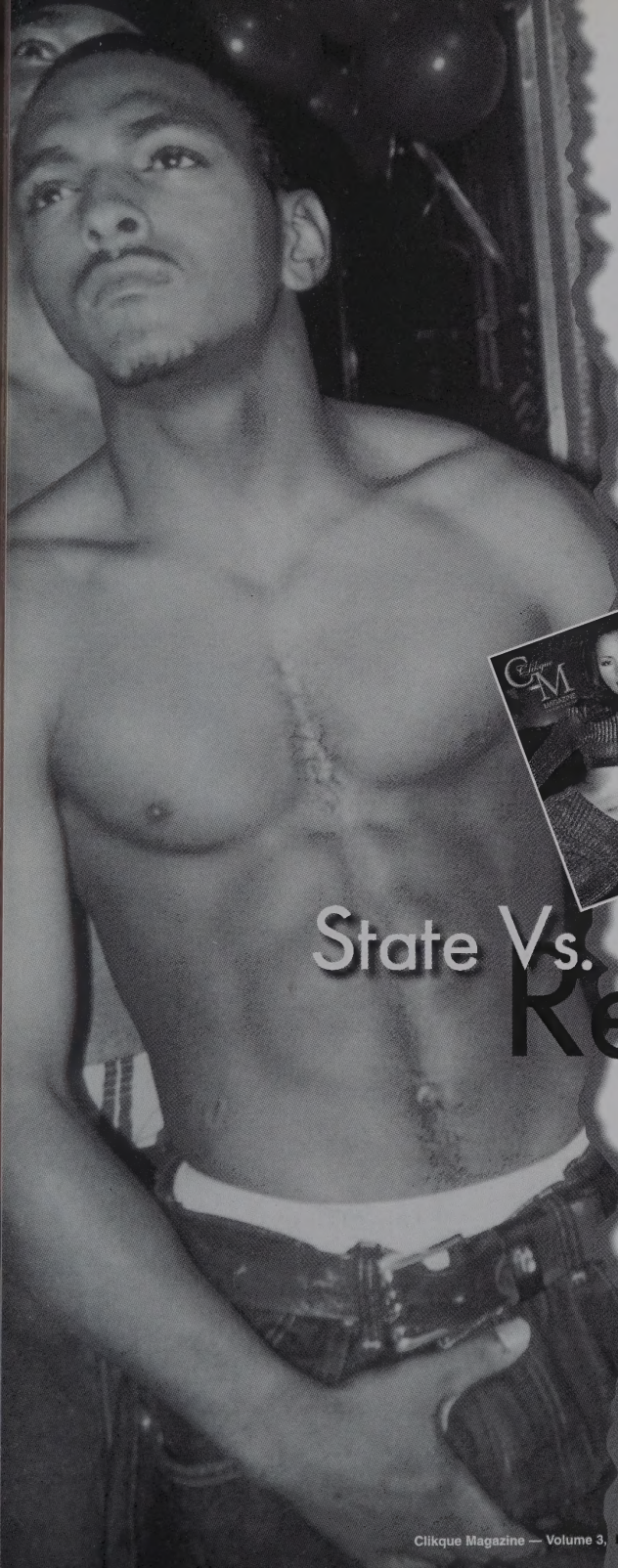

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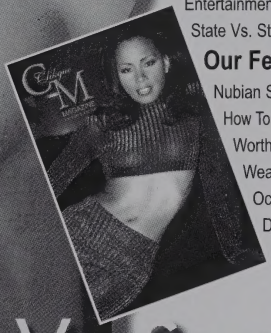

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Clikque MAGAZINE

PUBLISHER / EDITOR
Dwight Powell

COPY EDITOR
Darryl! L.C. Moch

OFFICE MANAGER / COVER COORDINATOR
Nestor Zapata

ART DIRECTOR / GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dwight Powell

HIV / AIDS EDITORIALS
Don Sneed - Dallas, Tx.

MONTHLY COMMENTARY
Craig Washington - Atlanta, Ga.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Anthony Rucker - Gainesville, Fl.

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS
Scott Bogan - Atlanta, Ga.
Todd Edwards - Austin, Tx.

STAFF WRITERS
Parker Bridges- Atlanta, Ga.
Danny Chislom - Atlanta, Ga.
Queshan Hayes - Atlanta, Ga.
Curdell "Doc" Hoskins Jr. - Atlanta, Ga.
Khalid Idawu - Atlanta, Ga.
Lee Jones - Louisville, Ky.
Dorian Kelley-Jahman - Atlanta, Ga.
Darryl! L.C. Moch- Atlanta, Ga.
Victor J. Stewart- Atlanta, Ga.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Katherine Gandy - Atlanta, Ga.
Stacy Jones - Atlanta, Ga.
M. Liz Marshall - Detroit, MI.
Brigette — Birmingham, AL
Juan Solomon II — Ann Arbor, MI
Erick LeBoyd — Concord, NC
Rev. Renaldo Epps — Claymont, DE
Mz. Sparkle — Chicago, IL
Anthony Hollins — Jonesboro, GA
Borris Powell — Chicago, IL
Joseph Butcher — Jamaica, NY
Ivan Myers — Atlanta, GA
Jerry T. Barnes — Tuscaloosa, AL
Jack Miller — Baltimore, MD

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Dwight Powell, Nestor Zapata
CARTOONIST
Michael Christopher
OWNER / PUBLISHER Dwight Powell
CO-OWNER Nestor Zapata
MARKETING Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc
SALES Roderick Martin
EVENTS COORDINATOR Victor J. Stewart
MILLENNIUM BALL COOR. Danny Chislom
OFFICE ADDRESS:
931 Monroe Drive, Suite 102-279,
Atlanta, GA, 30308
404-486-9655 • 404-235-0613 (fax)
www.clikque.com
email: Clikquem@aol.com

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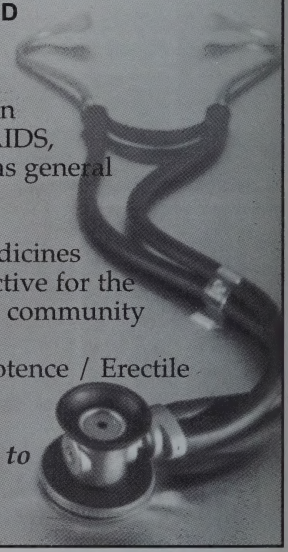

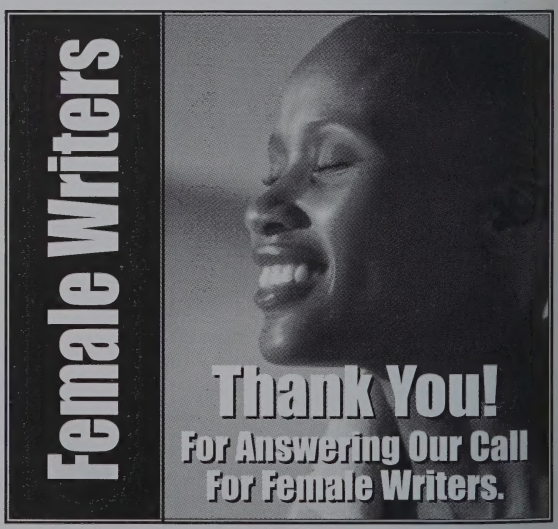

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Publisher's Message

Dwight Powell

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our advertisers, writers and contributors for making last months issue of Clikque, one of the best magazines to ever be published by and for our Same Gender Loving Community of Color. It is only with your support, that we will continue to render what you have now come to expect from us... a top notch, quality, informative, entertaining, and well-rounded Magazine.

On that same note, the ladies in our community need to be applauded for answering our call for female writers and contributors in such great numbers. Now, I can really say that Clikque is for HIM and for HER. From day one, it has always been our intent to utilize Clikque as a tool that reaches, all members of our SGL and transgendered communities. When you are done with this issue, you will see that we have successful managed to do just that. Thanks again, and you can now look forward to a publication that represents every segment of our community.

This month we have introduced a new section. It is called Topic of the Month. In this section, we will present a topic, and have you make comments and feedback on it. A selected number of submissions will be selected for publication. This is in an attempt to do our part of informing and enlightening you, our valued and loyal supporters.

Until next month, stay real and safe.

Peace.

CDC: DECLINE IN AIDS DEATHS SLOWS DRAMATICALLY

ATLANTA (AP) -- The sharp decline in AIDS deaths that began two years ago with the development of powerful new drugs has suddenly been cut in half, raising questions about whether the medications are already losing their punch, health officials said Monday.

AIDS killed 17,047 people in the United States last year -- a decline of 20 percent from 1997. From 1996 to 1997, the drop in deaths was a much more dramatic 42 percent, which health officials attributed to the effectiveness of new drugs.

"As we anticipated, we are now seeing the first signs of a slowing in this trend," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of HIV prevention for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said today during the National HIV Prevention Conference.

"In a period of only two years, new combination therapies cut the annual level of death in half," she said. "But for the time being it appears that much of the benefit of these new therapies has been realized."

In 1995, 49,351 people died from AIDS in the United States. By 1996, that dropped to 36,792, and the number was down to 21,222 in 1997.

The CDC listed several possible causes for the slowdown in reductions of AIDS deaths.

Most people who know they have HIV are already being treated, Gayle said. Drug resistance among some AIDS patients causes the treatment to fail, and other patients fail to keep up with the complicated juggling of pills they have to take for the drugs to be effective.

"Our worst fears have become a tragic reality," said Steven Fisher of the advocacy group AIDS Action. "AIDS drugs don't work for everyone and aren't a cure for anyone."

New HIV infections in 1998 were estimated at roughly 40,000 -- a number that's held steady for the past decade.

The CDC said AIDS continues to kill blacks in higher numbers than other racial groups.

Blacks, who make up about 13 percent of the population, accounted for 49 percent of AIDS deaths in 1998. Thirty-two percent of deaths were among whites and Hispanics made up 18 percent.

"In many ways, the story of how well we do in HIV and AIDS will be told by how well we do with the African-American population," Gayle said.

The three-day conference, organized by the CDC and 17 other agencies, features 2,000 scientists, doctors, researchers and advocates addressing efforts to monitor and prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Sunday, Gayle and others opened the conference by warning against complacency.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to get people to pay attention to HIV prevention and that in and of itself is a primary reason for this conference," she said.

Since the 1980s, more than 300,000 have died of AIDS. The recent success of some treatments have made some people complacent about the disease.

"Despite a growing complacency about the need for HIV prevention, HIV remains a serious disease that is still very much with us and there is a greater need for HIV prevention today more than ever," she said.

NEW HIV VACCINE CONCEPT MAY EXTEND HOPE TO THOSE ALREADY INFECTED

BALTIMORE (CNN) -- Creating a vaccine against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, has proven to be a tricky task. But a group of researchers is expressing excitement about a new approach that may also offer help to those already infected with the virus.

Shortly after someone is infected with HIV, the virus produces a protein called TAT, which binds to healthy immune cells and uses them to reproduce HIV. Without this protein, HIV can't reproduce in the body.

Now, scientists hope to use this information to create a vaccine that could not only prevent infection but also possibly help control HIV in those already infected.

"By vaccinating against TAT, you would inactivate TAT. You would block it so the immune system wouldn't be so impaired, and you would be better able to fight the virus," says Dr. Robert Gallo of the Institute of Human Virology, one of the researchers working on the study.

Other scientists say while the approach sounds promising, the research is still in the early stages.

"Theoretically, it makes sense," says Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health. "But there are a lot of things that make sense theoretically that when you practically try them, they just don't work."

Dr. Daniel Zagury, of the University Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, has done several clinical trials with a vaccine called TAT toxoid.

"The experiments in animals showed that the TAT toxoid was fully safe, well tolerated and induced antibodies in very high levels to antagonize, to neutralize the TAT that is reduced by infected cells," he says.

Last year, the first large scale HIV vaccine trial was launched, which is still ongoing. It could be years before the TAT vaccine is tested in large numbers of people.

HIV CONFERENCE OPENS WITH WARNING AGAINST COMPLACENCY

ATLANTA -- More than 2,000 scientists, doctors, researchers and advocates have gathered in Atlanta for the National HIV Prevention Conference, organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 17 other sponsoring organizations.

During the four-day conference, federal officials will release the lat-

Associated Press / CNN

est national data on trends in HIV and AIDS deaths and infection rates for the general population. Statistics on prisoners, unrecognized factors contributing to the spread of HIV, and results from a new HIV test will also be released.

In the nearly two decades since the first cases of AIDS were reported, the deadly virus has claimed more than 300,000 lives. The good news is that the number of new HIV infections has dropped from about 100,000 a year to 40,000.

Concern over record rate of infection among blacks

But at the same time, the epidemic is taking a greater toll on women and minorities, especially blacks who are becoming infected with AIDS at record rates, federal health officials said.

In the mid 1980s, blacks represented about 25 percent of the new cases of AIDS reported, Hispanics about 14 percent and women 8 percent, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher said. By 1997-98, blacks made up 45 percent of the cases, Hispanics 22 percent and women 23 percent.

Health officials are concerned about a growing complacency about HIV, especially among some of the people most at risk, health officials said Sunday at the first ever national conference addressing efforts to monitor and prevent the spread of the virus.

Officials want more preventive efforts

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to get people to pay attention to HIV prevention and that in and of itself is a primary reason for this conference," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention.

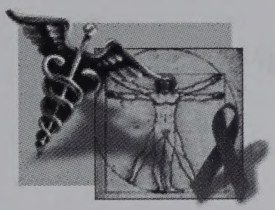
"Despite a growing complacency about the need for HIV prevention, HIV remains a serious disease that is still very much with us and there is a greater need for HIV prevention today more than ever," she said.

"One of the major concerns we have about the AIDS epidemic is that increasingly it is affecting communities that tend to be left out of the health care and public health system," Satcher said. "We know that in order to be successful we have to find a new way to reach these communities."

Much of the effort now being made to fight the epidemic is devoted to care and treatment when more needs to be directed toward prevention in order to control the epidemic, experts say.

"We have demonstrated that prevention works and deserves support," said Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, head of the CDC. "Nevertheless, as in most areas of public health, support for prevention is frequently more rhetorical than substantive."

STUDY: HIV CANNOT



BE ERADICATED FROM BODY

BALTIMORE (CNN) -- HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, cannot be eradicated from a patient's body even when it is undetectable in the blood, according to a study released Saturday by the National Institutes of Health.

Researchers had hoped that after taking anti-HIV drugs for more than a year, patients with HIV could stop treatment and the virus would not return. The study results appear to indicate that patients may need to continue drug therapy for the long term.

"It's going to be very difficult to take somebody off therapy and feel that the virus is not going to bounce back," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, who headed the research team.

The study results were made public at a virology conference in Baltimore on Saturday.

Fauci and colleagues followed 18 HIV-positive patients who had been on the drugs for more than a year and in whom HIV had been reduced to undetectable levels. The researchers then took the patients off the drugs to see if the virus came back: It did, in all 18 patients, within three weeks.

Virus lurks in body's 'reservoirs'

In some cases, a different form of the virus showed up than was originally found in the patient. Fauci said this showed researchers that there are places in the body where the virus can hide.

Scientists had calculated that the HIV virus was capable of hiding in body reservoirs unreachable by drugs for as long as 60 years.

They had hoped to be able to flush the HIV from the reservoirs, either with the help of a drug called Interleukin-2 or with the passage of time. The scientists then thought the drugs would kill the virus as it emerged from the reservoirs.

"It does tell us that, given the currently available regimens that we have of antiviral drugs, we are not going to eliminate or eradicate the virus from individuals," Fauci said.

A tough, expensive treatment

When those patients who chose to resume therapy were put back on medication, the virus was again suppressed to undetectable levels.

But not everyone chose to resume the tough and costly HIV regimen.

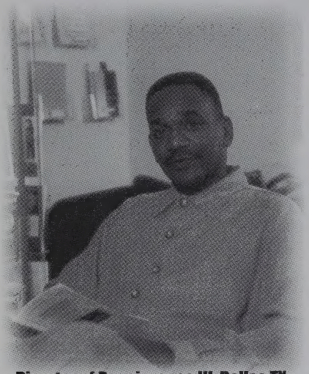
An HIV-positive patient may need to take as many as 30 pills a day to suppress the virus, and the side effects can be debilitating. Many patients suffer nausea, vomiting, fatigue, diarrhea, and elevated triglyceride levels.

The drugs cost an average of $15,000 annually, putting them out of the reach of most of the world's HIV positive patients.

Fauci cautioned that patients should not try stopping the anti-HIV medication outside a clinical trial, because they may become resistant to certain drugs and not be able to go back on them.

hiv/aids updates

By Don Sneed - Staff



Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: Dallas, Texas - the Southwestern Front. This is my last article before Black Gay and Lesbian Pride Weekend in Dallas - October 1st through 3rd. I hope to see some of you in Dallas during Pride Weekend. I assure you that it will be much cooler than it is now. Indian Summer (October) is one of the best times to be in Dallas. The weather is very pleasant and the citizens are in a much better mood after enduring another "summer from hell." I invite you to visit with us at the Renaissance III booths that will be strategically placed at some of the weekend's festivities.

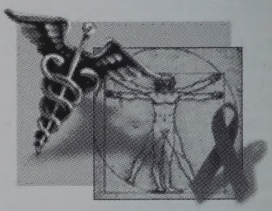
The Centers for Disease Control will be making its announcements about who is to be funded with the Congressional Black Caucus monies soon. I wish all who applied the best and I pray that the monies are used wisely.

The government has done its part now let us move on to another entity that has a huge vested interest in African Americans with HIV disease: the Pharmaceutical Companies. I am sure that most of you have seen advertisements, over the last year are so, for anti-HIV medications with Black people prominently featured. I caution you not to believe that the companies paying for these ads have developed some new found compassion and concern for African Americans. This is not how for-profit companies, in the bastion of capitalism, operate. Let me clear the air. I am all for capitalism. I don't have a problem with people and companies making money. It is the American way and after all I am an African American. I and most of my colleagues are keenly aware of why the pharmaceutical companies have turned their attention to us. We know why they are strategically investing dollars in marketing and making contributions to organizations in the Black community. The simple truth is that, for all intents in purposes, the pharmaceutical companies have reached market saturation in the white gay community with their anti-HIV medications. African Americans, the majority of which are not aware of their HIV infection, are the new frontier as consumers of billions of dollars of anti-HIV medications. Catching AIDS, testing for AIDS, vaccinating for AIDS, treating AIDS and burying people dying from AIDS is a multi-billion dollar a year business. Make no errors! Just about every White person in this country who has HIV/AIDS is on medications. Most Black people with the disease are not.

Let us do some simple math. There may be 400,000 African Americans who are HIV positive and do not know it. Depending on the stage of infection, it costs about $8,000 to $15,000 a year to medicate a person with HIV disease. Using a median figure of $12,000 times 400,000 that comes to $4,800,000,000.00 (4.8 billion dollars) in potential annual drug sales to Black people. Folks that's a lot of biscuits!!! Just the two anti-HIV drugs that I take cost out at about $9,000 a year.

Therefore, when pharmaceutical companies come to our communities we should not only expect but demand that we be treated with the respect that a potential 4.8 billion dollar market deserves. For the most part Merck Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology, Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Roche Pharmaceuticals and Dupont Pharmaceuticals have been approaching our communities with the proper respect that a suitor of a multi-billion dollar market should demonstrate. They can do more. I anticipate that they will. However, there is a behemoth out there that has come with a "pig foot and a bottle of beer" - GlaxoWellcome.

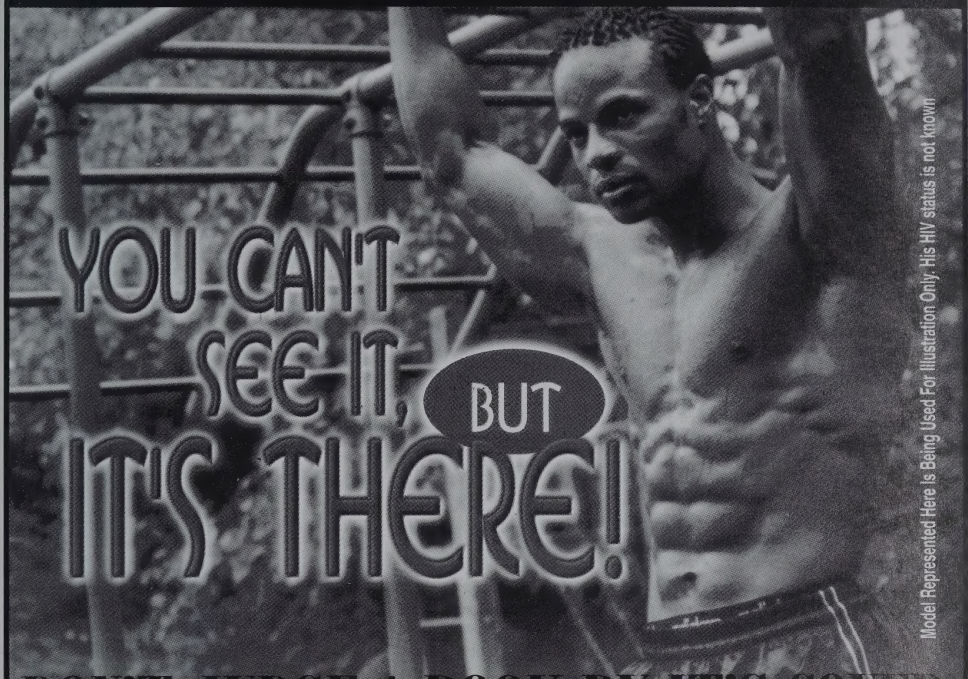
GlaxoWellcome treats most African-American agencies and our communities as if we were second class citizens still deserving of the leftovers from slaughtered hogs - pig feet, entrails



and hog tails. Fact: Last week GlaxoWellcome proudly announced in the local White gay newspaper in Dallas that they had awarded $20,000 to a White gay agency to provide services to African Americans in Dallas. The money was supposedly for Black folks but there were only White folks in the picture. Can we talk about being high handed, arrogant and insensitive. Fact: a few weeks ago GlaxoWellcome came to Dallas and announced that they were bringing a Black gospel road show to Dallas and ten other cities to lift the awareness of African American congregations and

Continues on Page 27

Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Model Represented Here Is Being Used For Illustration Only. His HIV status is not known

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

HIV Comes in various packages. There are white ones, black ones, big ones, small ones, short ones, tall ones, sexy ones, and not so sexy ones. You can't identify an HIV infected person by just looking at them. Therefore, always use a Latex Condom and a waterbased lubricant when intimate with that special person. When used properly, latex condoms are effective against HIV, STDs and Pregnancies

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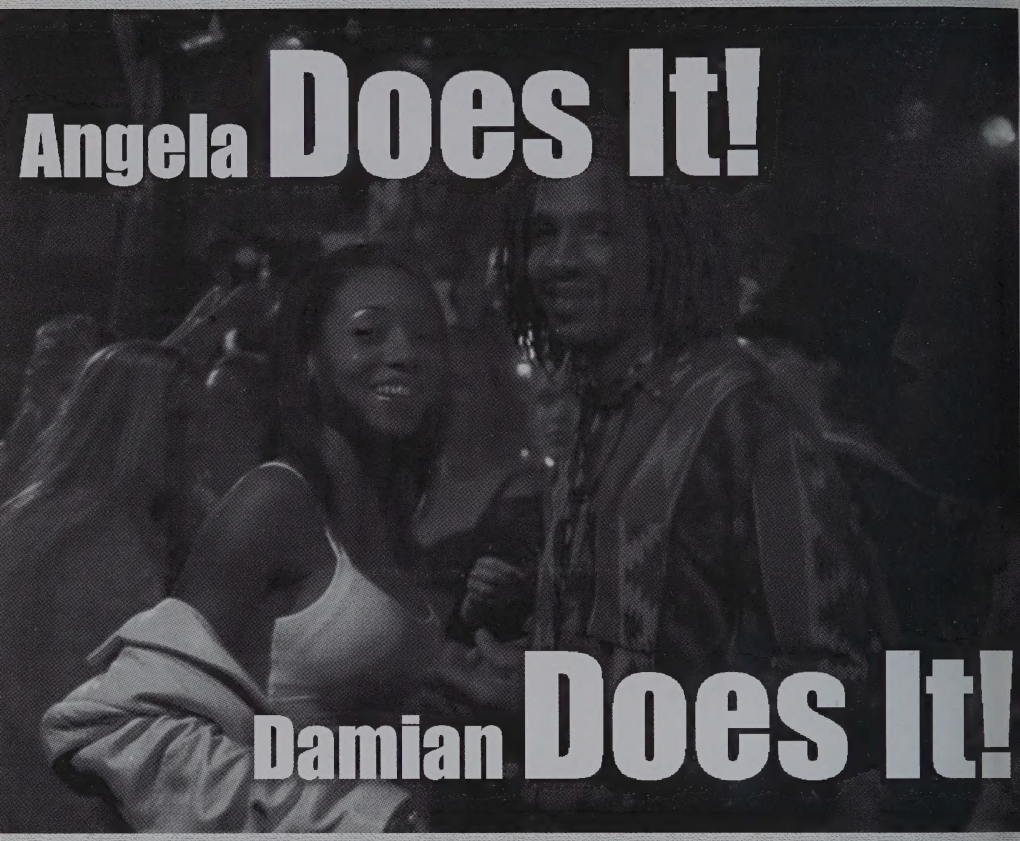

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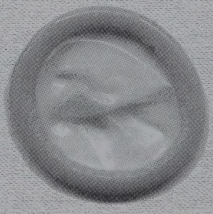

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A Deeper Love

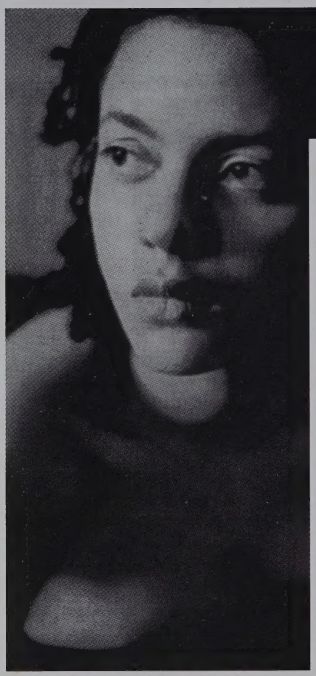
By M. Liz Marshall

Do you ever question your existence? So many times in life, I've dealt with family and friends pondering over the true meaning of life. For me, I think like so many other things that the answer is inevitably an individual journey. In pursuit of obtaining a better understanding of my purpose in life, I've studied myself. Through self-introspection, I have discovered my best attributes as well as my greatest weaknesses. I think that so much can be learned by looking inwardly as opposed to seeking constant reassurance and self -worth from others. The greatest accomplishment in living is learning to love yourself. Honey, if you don't love you and know who you are, there ain't too much you'll be available to offer to others. Find the deeper love before you jump in the shallow end and come up with a feeling of exuberance but nothing truly tangible. Always look up and within before you leap.

So much of life is founded on and relative to love. First, let's look at the foundations of the world, regardless of your belief I'm sure we can all agree that the creator formulated our existence through an act of love. If not, let's say your mother loved you enough to carry you nine months and have you. OK, that should be enough for you to get the point. Love is the reason for your life; you would not be here if someone hadn't loved you to begin with. Then, we get here and forget the entire concept. Too entrenched in the problems of life and other folks business to fathom the idea that without love, people perish. Love yourself before pondering the idealized relationship. He or she cannot love what you haven't bothered to cultivate within yourself. Don't allow anyone to make discoveries for you, discover yourself baby. There are so many of the "children" wandering around aimlessly these days, clad in Versace, hiding behind Donna Karan that remain clueless about their own identity. In my brief thirty-one year old life, I have learned that loving myself prolongs my relationships, assists me in attaining my goals and gives me direction. I see too much shade in our communities, fighting amongst ourselves and entirely too much promiscuity. We need to evolve. If the deeper love I speak about were more prevalent and the search for meaning in our lives was more reverent, there would be less bullshit. If you're really trying to grasp the full concept of what I am expressing, this is a black gay pride message for you kids in "the family". We are on the brink of a new millennium and it's time to get real in every facet of our lives. Going forward is imperative and we can't move ahead without self-love propagating brotherly and sisterly love. Life is too short and the actualization as to what it's all about and what each of us has to do is too vital to our growth to overlook. Seek out the best in you and you'll find it in others. Without a deeper love, the same old superficial, unimaginative stuff will plague our lives and stagnate what could be. Peace, love and strength to you all! Make it happen.

Various Contributors

Am I Black or Am I Gay FIRST?



Welcome To The First Installation Of Clikque Magazine's Topic Of The Month. Each Month We Will Attempt To Bring You Thought-provoking Topics. We hope that you will be enlighten and informed.

zI'm an 18-year-old female from Alabama, and I think that it's important to connect to your Black roots first—or at least attempt to. Although it's easier to be gay and out nowadays, it's still a hard thing in many people's eyes to accept, especially if you are Black because a lot of the Black community still see being gay as 'white folk's stuff'. I, myself, have been out since I was 12, but it's been a struggle. I don't think that there really is a way to put either first because they are both integral parts of who we are. My best advice for anyone struggling with this out there is to say be who you are and don't try to put one before the other because in the end you'll end up losing an important part of yourself.

Brigette, Birmingham, AL

I have dealt with this question in great detail being a black gay male at the University of Michigan. For me I believe that black comes first. I have found the most discrimination against my sexuality from black people. I find that disturbing because I feel that black people and people of color should stick together. But the very first thing that you realize about you, is your color. Some people believe that you are gay from birth but when your parents decide to have you. Their race is already there so you are predetermined before you are conceived. But for most people, you are seen as black, and then later if it is discovered that you are gay, then gay. So I say black then gay.

Juan Solomon II — Ann Arbor, MI

Black or Gay First....Why are we as African-Americans are always choosing to be this or to be that...(i.e. African American or American)? We as a people try to reduce ourselves to one objective or one cause, which in my opinion is limited the any form of advancement. I think the time should be right now that we limit our limits on what we can be and what we can accomplish. With that in mind lets address the topic at hand...black or gay first....neither we are all what God made us to be. We all know the difficulty of being black in America and the struggles of being outsiders WITHIN our very own community which we all live, work, play, and etc.. So why are still try to label ourselves, just for others to use the same labels to keep us against each other. What we as a community need to do is open our minds and stop limit ourselves to one or another. We must learn to fight for whatever there is injustice as human beings...not because of our color or sexual preference. Stop the insanity...avoid choosing labels.

Erick LeBoyd — Concord, NC

We are all Black before anything. But I think your sexuality comes when you mature in life.

Mz. Sparkle, Chicago, IL

The reason that I am writing is to answer your question that was in your magazine in July. The question was are you gay or black first?

This is an age old question, the same as the chicken and the egg. If we believe in what the Bible states" That I knew you in your mothers womb".

Then the answer would have to be Gay first.

If we believe what scientist say then we are Black first, based on the fact that homosexuality is a learned process.

I have thought and pondered over the answer. I believe that we are Gay first. Many people ask me how I come to that conclusion. The reasoning for this is that God knew us in our mothers womb. He said that he makes no useless creatures.

We are black based on things that mankind has brought upon itself. We where made in Gods' image, So the color thing is not the real issue.

Now this Gay thang that people talk, when they see me they see a black man. I can remember hearing while I was growing up I heard " look at that black faggot", I have never heard that for a white man.

I guess that my letter has somewhat may be confusing, I believe that this is an answer that you will have to get from God. Respectfully,

Rev. Renaldo Epps — Claymont, DE

Before I am anything, I am a Child of God, A spirit of greatness. What is so

very bothersome about the question of, "Am I Black or Am I Gay, First? is that so often in the African-American community we are in an ongoing fight for our identity, a search for who we are, who we really are.

For me personally, my identity is in my spirit. Spirit is the true essence of our existence. Before I knew anything about my sexuality or my blackness, I realized that I am a spirit with great potential and destiny and a purpose in life. Spirit allows you to see beyond where you are at the moment, to see the greatness you will become because of the spirit that lives inside each of us. When we examine our race or creed, it identifies our culture, not who we are. When we examine our gayness, it identifies our sexual orientation. When we examine our spirit, we can truly identify who we are, whose we are and what our potential in life is. In other words, when we acknowledge the spirit that lives inside each of us, we establish a sense of self, self-worth and yes, self-respect.

Let me be very clear, there is a difference between spirit and religion. People go to church Sunday after Sunday practicing religion through some formalized doctrine or various denominational faiths. But spirit is the identifiable measure of who we are, how we treat others and ourselves. There are thousands of churchgoers who attend a church service on Sunday and will curse you out on Monday. What's up with that?

With the awesomeness of spirit, we can better understand and accept our blackness and our gayness. There are pastors and churches across this country who speak against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people. However, when we live our lives in truth and spirit, we realize that what others say negatively about us really does not matter. The primary understanding of such an attitude is based on the fact that God loves all of us. Condemnation has no place in our churches because the only judge for our lives is God. God's message is about love and He loves each and every one of us; inspite of us and our shortcomings.

If black gays and lesbians are ever to experience peace and true happiness, it starts within our spirit. Don't forget spirit is the essence of who we are. Relationships among black gays and lesbians are less likely to last because far too often we seek to get to know another when we really don't know who we are as individuals. We want to be in relationships and have partners or lovers, yet we fail to realize that until we are whole as an individual and secure within ourselves, it is impossible to meet another spirit and become one. The spirit of a divine relationship is based on the acceptance of who we are, less putting on a front of those whom we come in contact with.

For the respect of who we are as black gays and lesbians, we must get in touch with our spirit. This will manifest honest relationships and equip us to counteract the negativity of churches and those who seek to condemn and tear down our spirit. The irony of most churches that speak against gays is that they have gay parishioners, musicians, choir members, and directors. That is blatant hypocrisy. If the message is love it should not exempt anyone.

Am I Black or Am I Gay, First? I am Spirit.

Anthony Hollins- Jonesboro, GA

I consider myself to be Black first and foremost. Living in New York where Blacks in general and Black men in particular find themselves under constant attack in this city that 'never sleeps'. I have found that if I enter an elevator and subsequently a white woman or man enters afterwards there is a tension that fills that space until the doors open again. However, I have also seen more effeminate men ride elevators, crowded trains and be in other claustrophobic settings and such events don't occur. Behavior seems to be what sets white people up to be comfortable or ill at ease in the presence of Men of color.

This is inspite of the fact I could put a couple of krafty queens I know in an elevator and those girls will clean the whole car out of wallets, jewelry and all.

My father explained that my being gay should not hamper me in this world because long before anyone could identify me as gay they would see that as I was Black and make their own assumptions based on that fact first. Therefore, I have made my sexual identity a non-issue in my public life. I have a difficult enough time monitoring my own sex life without monitoring someone else's.

Joseph Butcher — Jamaica, NY

First, I must say that it is a sad state of affairs when a self supporting, educated, emotionally stable,spiritually grounded black man with no criminal record is forced to decide which of these realities comes first. Let's say I was openly gay and I am(whatevah that means) then my brothas discriminate because I am not D L. On the other hand the entire world becomes aware that I am black upon my entering any room. Question, do I play down my blackness? Can I be D L in this matter? Why bother?

I like the man I am and as my evolution continues will I be blacker or gayer or possibly more human?

My experience is different from that of many, in my career I work in an environment where it is truly okay to be gay. However experiences with blatant racist situations are not foreign. Thus, homophobia is not an issue and me as a gay man has been promoted twice in my 2.5 year tenure. I have left work in tears a time or two, wanting to show folk how a REAL black man can work it out. I did say I don't have a police record, lets not start now. So I awaken each morning and bond my spirit with that of the ancestors. Connecting myself to the wisdom that provided the strength to endure and survive. Infusing my mind, body, and mouth with the love of my tribal mothers and fathers that only had words of wisdom and encouragement, and thank you GOD for the power of those words. My spirit is the gift of the Universe that no earthly thing can possess, offend or injure.

I invoke the power that existed before time and light a deep breathe and I am on my way. My eyes focus on each person that I encounter and if they look closely the force of the Universe can be seen in them. Love is forced out of each pore of body so that my reminds all of something greater than the both of us.

AND I LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST black and gay !

Borris Powell , — Chicago, IL

This question surface up in our everyday lives. Yes it might be hard for some black males to answer this questions but as for me it is so easy to answer. Why is it so easy for me to answer because I was born black before I knew my sexuality. My sexuality doesn't make up my identity. Some gay black males may say they knew their sexuality at a early age or during their adolescence years. If most of my brothas knew their sexual orientation that is wonderful but that should not be our main focus in life. Believe it or not I also think the heterosexual community tend to think of gay people as just being gay. In the years past by, we have made so much progress in society. I do not want people to see me as just being gay. I want people to look at me and say he is a strong brotha with a leveled head. Most of all, I should think that way also before people view me or criticize me. Each and every day I look in the mirror and realize I am a black male full of love and compassion for life. People may prejudge me or taught me but they can't take my pride and knowledge because I know this 23 year-old brotha will succeed in life. Again I will say I AM A PROUD BLACK MALE AND WITH NO DOUBT I AM A PROUD NUBIAN GAY BROTHA.

R.D.- Troy, AL

My immediate reaction to Clikque's September Topic was that being black and gay go hand in hand since one is as much a part of my life as the other;

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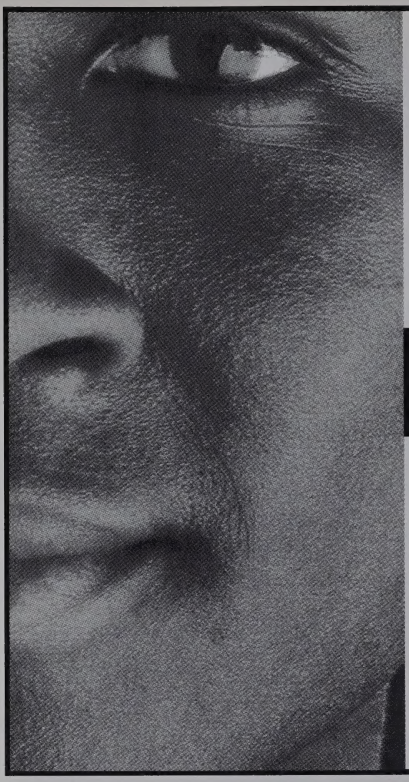

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Study To Show Thyself Approved Unto God

— 2 Timothy 2:15

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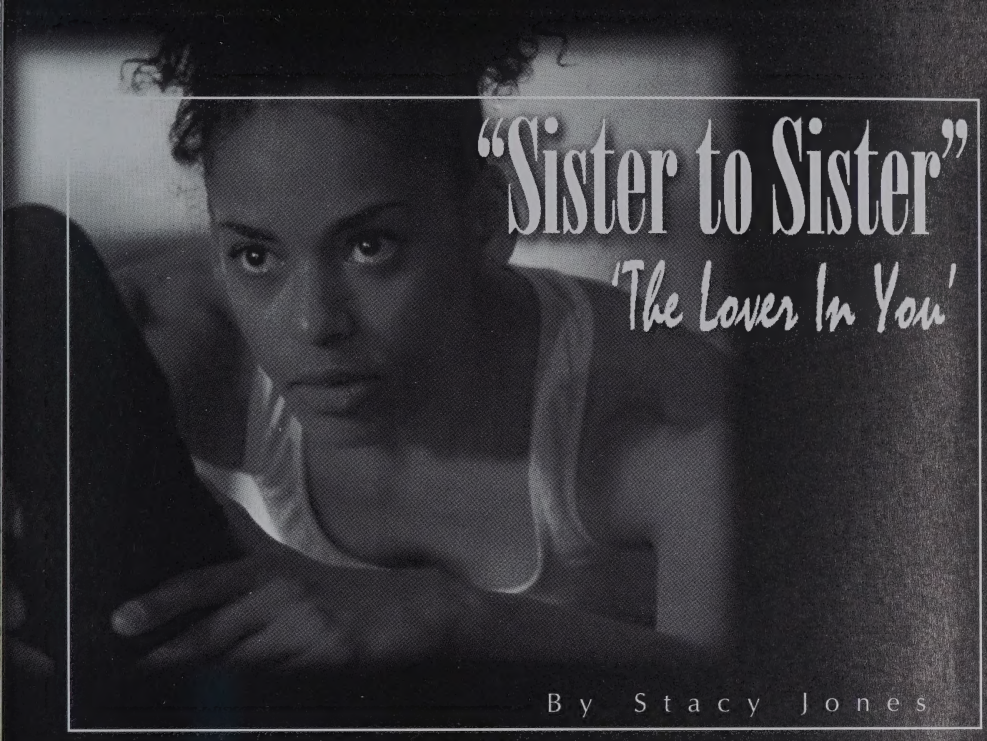

"Sister to Sister"

'The Lover In You'

By Stacy Jones

Sista's tell me how you feel. Okay, I'll tell you how I feel. I'm a 25 year-old stud, fairly intelligent, not bad looking basically an average person. Besides that I'm also a mother, I had my son when I was 16 years-old, I know its a familiar story so let me be the one to tell it. When I was young I was wild. I was wild because of the lack of love I received in my home, growing up in a single parent home the youngest of four, all with different fathers. When I tell people some of the things I went thru I often get a strange look, as if there's a sense of pity but hell I thought the shit was normal so I was never ashamed to tell it. To make a long story short cause it would take forever to run it down, I'll just skip over all the little details and just say as a child you name it, I did it. My sexual encounters started when I was 5 years-old, some call it molestation but I say I knew what was going on and I wasn't forced to do anything. I just thought I was grown cause my boyfriend was 14. I grew up in California so violence and gangs were all I knew besides the verbal and physical abuse I endured at home. I used to go to bed and pray that when I woke up I would be all grown up so I could get away. As years went by the lack of love in my life and the abuse made me very bitter as a young woman, nobody loved me so I didn't know how to love myself. I latched onto the boys to try to find that love I felt I was missing and at 15 that love turned out to be a beautiful little boy. I struggled alone to raise my child with no help but I did whatever I had to do.

Finally I had someone to love me without conditions. Most of my bitterness went away, he turned into my reason for living. As the years went by my attitude changed, when I looked into his eyes I grew stronger as a woman. Soon God had given me a clearer outlook on life and I was more in touch with my own needs and now that one gap was filled, I could go on to the next. At the age of 21 when I came into the life everything happened so fast, I was excited about this new feeling that made me so happy. I think that without knowing I was still searching for that love my mother never had time to give me, so of course a man was never the answer. I became so involved in finding the right woman till it became all I knew. Between working 12 to 16 hours a day and hoe chasing thinking these females gave a shit about me, I didn't notice I was taking away from the one love I already had, my child. After 7 years of raising him alone I felt it was time for his father to take his turn. Besides I didn't want him to see all the drama I was going thru with my relationships.

So now what? Did I choose this lifestyle over my child? Am I any happier now than I was 10 years ago?

In the past 4 years, I have been involved with about 30 women. I've slept with 28 of those women and I'm single right now. You tell me if you think I'm happy. I can say that about 90% of my lesbian sisters have been thru situations somewhat similar to mine because we sit and talk about it all the time. And after so many heartaches in my relationships, I've come to a conclusion.

If I were gay by choice, I would've given it up a long time ago cause its not worth what I've been through. But since its not something I can just let go of, I have to find a way to make some kind of sense out of this whole mess. I used to pray that God would send me a lover that would love me as much as I could love them. I often wonder if my punishment for being gay is misery. As it seems, I've been praying the same prayer for 4 years and it hasn't been answered yet. Or has it? Maybe the best lover for me, is me.

These days the word love is used so freely among people, that it has seemed to have lost its meaning. Lets stop looking for the next person to love us more than we love ourselves, and lets stop loving the next person more than we love ourselves. Like they day over and over..... "Love Don't Love Nobody".

Till we meet again, let us keep praying for ourselves and each other.

In The Life
In The Spirit

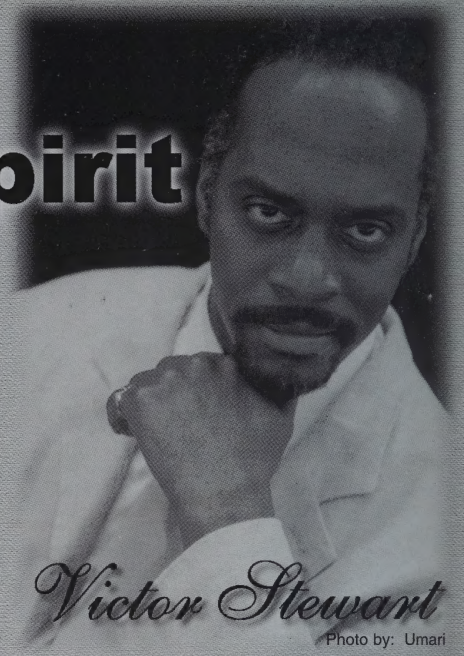

Photo by: Umari

" HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, LET HIM CAST A STONE."

Brothers and Sisters as I began to write this months article of, "IN THE LIFE, IN THE SPIRIT," I thought back over the last six months and appreciated the opportunity to write, express, and minister to those of you who read my article. You cannot know how wonderful it is to have someone step to you with words of encouragement telling you to keep on keeping on! Or to have letters and emails written to the magazine saying that we as writers have inspired and aided in your liberation/self identification. For this I am very grateful! It is my prayer that GOD will use me (us) with this publication to continue to help set my brothers and sisters free! This month's article is dedicated to a few people that have made a difference in my life. My mother, Dorothy Stewart Bailey for her support and friendship even when she doesn't understand me, her "GAY" son, and for her unconditional love that binds us together mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. To my dear friends; Wallace Henry, Tracey Williams, Leon Parham, Jeffrey Fletcher, and Asha Said who believe in me. They have shown me true love, kindness, and honesty in ways that are above your normal friendship. I trust them and love them! Finally, to three brothers who recently confirmed my calling by their encouraging words of support; Kirk (from Albany, Ga.), Chris, and David Richardson. We need more brothers like you three and I'm glad our paths have crossed!!!

In preparation of this month's article, the biblical story of the women caught in the act of adultery continued to come into my thoughts. As I meditated, it confirmed for me that if GOD be for you, HE is more than the world against you! The story (St. John 8: 1-11.) tells how a woman was caught in the act of adultery and brought before JESUS to test his response to the Mosiac Law. As Jesus listened to the scribes and Pharisees (today's gossipers, nay sayers, and character accusers), he did nothing but write in the sand. The scribes and the Pharisees continued to try to pressure JESUS to respond; so he did! His words were; "he that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Realizing that they were not sin free each scribe and Pharisees walked away one by one! The woman who had been brought forth stood alone from her accusers with JESUS as he asked,"woman where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?" The woman said, "No man, Lord." Then JESUS said,"Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more!"

As I meditated on this story over and over I thought how society would and does want to stone every Gay and Lesbian person in sight. I have come to a place of knowing that being Gay is not a sin so I don't worry about our modern day scribes or Pharisees. What pains me more is the insult, slander, and backbitting that exist in our own community, the Gay community at large. Brothers and sisters in the life, sometimes it seems like we are our own worst enemy! We keep up so much drama, gossip and negative energy about each other it's a wonder sometimes that we don't kill each other off! For example, have you ever had a friend who always seem to be jealous of someone cause of their appearance, intelligence, skin color, job, friends, lover, etc. That friend of yours always finds something negative to say about someone that you are sure they don't even know! Are you ever as guilty as your friend is! Take a moment, think about it; this type of behavior will never unite our community, it will only add to the madness!!!

It's easy to say,". If you live in a glass house don't throw stones." Some how we feel like

we are advocates of others feelings when we think this way! But are we really? First of all I don't think any of us want to live in a glass house or closet! That doesn't sound stable at all. Therefore, we've come to build walls that say, "Its my house and I live here and what you do in your house is your business and what I do in my house is mine," Realistically we perpetuate a community that is separate and divided. Where will it all end! How can we take player hating and our broken relationships and make them into healthy friendships/associations. O.K. family here's the plan: JUST SAY NO!, DON'T THROW STONES!!!

- **SAY NO TO GOSSIP**;(turn a deaf ear to juicy stories and rumors)
- **SAY NO TO JEALOUSY**; (don't covet someone else success; remember what GOD has for you is for you.)
- **SAY NO TO SELFISHNESS**; (give a little, you generally get back a whole lot more.)
- **SAY NO TO LIES AND DECEIT**; (truth will always prevail.)

This by far is not the strategy in total but it's a great place to start. When I think about the story at the beginning of the article about the women caught in adultery, I realize wrong is wrong, but to campaign against her doesn't make it right! Imagine how she felt during this public trial! I'm sure she had to feel as if she was of the bottom of the barrel! Her name was literally dragged through the mud. But moving forward, was she set free from her own mistakes.

In closing, my thoughts are that we need to learn how to set each other free. Not to tear each other down and make a mockery of the shortcomings of others. We must learn to be the standard and the models for others to learn and grow by. To fear is human but to forgive is divine. Let us learn to reach out and pull each other up to the standards that we believe in, and instead of throwing stones use them to build strong foundations for us all to stand on! In order to receive love we must learn to give love. Sometimes your happiness maybe realized as a result of making someone else happy! So, I challenge every reader to take time out today and make someone happy and see what a difference it makes in your day and in your life!!!

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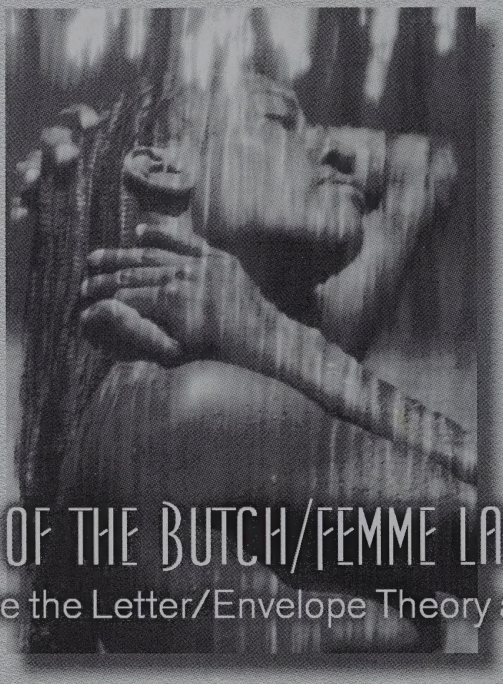
I have been gay since I was five years old. I just didn't know what it was called at the time. It all started around the second or third day of first grade. I will absolutely never forget the image of seeing my first grade teacher's long chocolate legs dangling from her knee length skirt.

It was at that beautiful moment, I became a Lesbian.

I truly didn't understand what I was feeling, but I did know that I had a strong unexplainable desire for another female. And a much older female at that. And as the years passed I had even more strong desires for many, many other females. The condition simply wouldn't let up.

Rather than facing reality and dealing with who I was, I remained silent and closeted for 19 years after those initial days of drooling over Miss Anderson.

When I got past puberty and into the college years I started to really weigh out my options. I was, of course, scared of what my family would think, say and do. My friends would no doubt outcast me into the ex-friend lake-of-fire. Sorority sisters would deny my existence completely. And let's not forget about the all too true proverbial societal fears and prejudices that exist in our world. We won't even mention "TheBlack Community."



TIRED OF THE BUTCH/FEMME LABELS?

Give the Letter/Envelope Theory a try!

BY KATHERINE GANDY

Therefore that left me with only one viable choice. I had to find "Mr. Right." There was only one little problem, I kept running into "Mr.-Not-Quite-My-Type-But-Wait-A-Minute-Is-Your-Sister-Single?"

By my mid-twenties I exasperated the fine pickin's of men and had reached my max.

Now, not to take anything away from men, but quite frankly I was getting bored with this search for the perfect guy. Especially when I knew in my heart, that I would never find what I was looking for from a man. Four years ago, I finally decided to live my life and be true to myself. Finally, I was going to be proud to admit that I was indeed an African-American lesbian.

After I did decide to stop playing around and acknowledge that I was gay, I realized that I had been one of the biggest homophobiacs around. I had talked negatively about homosexuality, made jokes, snide remarks and anything else to appear so far removed from anything remotely regarded as being gay. The truth, was that on the inside I was deftly afraid of the image or representation I had grown accustomed to seeing of gay women. The thought of me being a lesbian would always raise certain questions in my mind. Would I too have to look so "butch" to be gay? Would I too be regarded as a "bull dagger" as my Aunt Gladys had so often loving referred to lesbians?

By nature I had always been a tomboy. Yet on occasion, I did like to get my nails done and I sometimes liked to wear lipstick and mascara. Some days I would get really crazy and put on a skirt. Would not these aesthetic wishes get in the way with being a lesbian?

I guess right about now I could stop and give a speech on the "labeling" that we lesbians identify ourselves. I could go into how we are all individuals in our own way and that under no circumstances should we take on "butch" or "femme" labels or roles. But that wouldn't be very realistic. You would probably say I was full of bullshit and no doubt continue perusing the other articles of this publication.

So I even won't go there. I will, however, offer up a theory that I have been working on for a brief time. Basically the theory makes it easier for me personally to swallow the labeling that goes on within our big lesbian circle. And if you, like me have a hard time deciphering a soft butch from an aggressive soft femme or a butch butch femme from a hard soft butch then follow me on this one for a minute.

I give you the letter and the envelope theory. There are two types of lesbians. There are your letter lesbians and then there are your envelope lesbians.

Letter lesbians are going to traditionally be the softer, the more gentile side of the partnership. They are going to be the ones with classic whip appeal. The long flirty eyelashes. Blouses full of cleavage. Lips full of rich color and hair that is always done. They may speak softly but you best believe they carry a big stick. The stick of power that is. They without question are the actual ones in charge. Please make no mistake about this part of the theory.

On the flipside, the envelope is the "harder" one if you will. Maybe she wears pants to church. Perhaps she will slip on a baseball cap because she missed her appointment with her stylist or her barber even. She will probably be the one who will say "I gotta get home, my baby is cooking dinner tonight." She will also be the one who proudly proclaims "I take care of my woman, she has everything she wants and needs." (Note the power of the letter.)

You now should have an idea into which category you fall, more or less. However, I am not claiming to have the perfect theory so here are a few questions that will help further determine if you are a letter or if you are an envelope.

Do you find yourself doing the dinner and a movie thing and you are consistently whipping out the Amex card or Visa? You are probably the envelope.

Do you rehearse how to present an idea to your girlfriend that you know you might get some resistance on, and decide to douse on a little extra perfume to perhaps get your point across? You would be the letter.

Constantly under the hood of the car? Envelope.
Constantly in the mirror? Letter.
Unscrewing difficult containers of food? Envelope.
Handing difficult to open containers of food to your lover? Letter.

But, here is the most endearing determination of all.

J&W, J2K, TRE's Says
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR BUSINESS
Look to our new website for upcoming events and travel discounts
www.blackgaytravel.com

The letter and the envelope when together literally form a perfect fit. In other words look at you and your woman. Okay, now physically look at you and your woman. Is she shorter, perhaps a smaller frame than you? Do you find yourself sleeping peacefully snuggled with your lady pulled close to your heart? Are your arms wrapped around her body holding her? Do you find that you are completely happy with the feeling and emotion of protecting and shielding her from whatever goes bump in the night? Does she feel totally protected and happy with you surrounding her? If you are predominantly doing most of the holding then you are probably the envelope. If she is the one mostly being held then she is probably the letter.

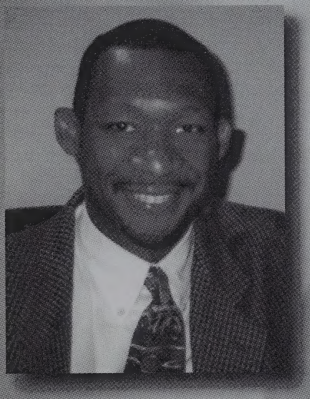
Bear in mind that with any theory there will be the critics that just don't quite grasp the given philosophy, and that's okay. To the rest of you who cringe when you hear words like "butch" or "bull dagger" or for you ladies that aren't so swift to raise your hand to "pillow princess" go ahead and embrace your new found identities.

And the next time someone asks "which one are you?" or "what is your partner?" Just tell them you are the letter or the envelope. I guarantee that will probably shut them up.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO Just Holding Hands?

THIS MONTH'S TOPICS IS ABOUT- WHAT ELSE; SEX. NO JUST KIDDING, THAT WAS LAST MONTH. THANKS FOR ALL THE FEEDBACK FROM THAT ONE. WHEW!!!

I'D LIKE TO BROACH A SUBJECT OR SITUATION THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE FACING. DATING AGAIN? AFTER BEING IN RELATIONSHIP FOR YEARS, HOW



DOES ONE START TO "DATE AGAIN"? THERE ARE OR SHOULD BE A MULTITUDE OF QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS ASKED BEFORE WADING INTO THE DATING CESSPOOL.

CESSPOOL WAS RATHER HARSH, I APOLOGIZE. I'LL SHARE WITH YOU THAT I MYSELF AM RECENTLY DIVORCED FROM A 4 1/2 YEAR RELATIONSHIP AND HAVE CONCERNS GALORE ABOUT THIS DATING MADNESS. I HAVE YET TO ENGAGE IN IT, BUT FROM LISTENING TO THE HORROR STORIES OF MY FRIENDS WHO ARE DATING, I'M REALLY NOT EAGER TO TREAD THOSE WATERS AT ALL.

QUESTION ONE: WHEN DOES ONE START TO DATE AGAIN AFTER THE RELATIONSHIP ENDS? BELOW ARE A FEW POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS. (polledfrom various sources)

- 1 YEAR (no that's the mourning period if your mate dies)
- 6 MTHS (maybe, but just for coffee/drinks)
- 3 MTHS (possibly a group outing- per Martha Stewart)
- 1 MTH (a bit soon wouldn't you say9.)
- 1-2 WEEKS (child, were you ever really in a relationship?)

QUESTION TWO: ASSUMING YOU HAVE WAITED YOUR APPROPRIATE TIME FRAME- WHERE DO YOU GO ON THE DATE?

- YOUR PLACE (Hmm?, what does this really say?)
- HIS/HER PLACE (Hmm? what are you walking into?)
- BAR/CLUB (Hmm? sand to the beach theory-not recommended)
- RESTAURANT (Hmm? usually a safe bet- not much is expected)

QUESTION THREE: ONCE THE DATE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND YOU'RE AT THE RESTAURANT- WHO PAYS?

- YOU PAY (But you're thinking, surely they will leave the tip? THEY PAY (But you're thinking, surely they will include the tip?
- GO DUTCH (We're not in Norway love, who does this anymore?

QUESTION FOUR: AFTER DINNER IS OVER, WHAT NEXT?

- DANCING? (Now, where can we as a couple go dancing? Refer to the sand-beach theory mentioned earlier.? (Not recommended- unless you go to a bar outside the norm)
- MOVIES? (Usually ideal, for you're not forced to create stimulating dialogue all night?

Continues On Page 29

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Continued From Page 14

they had the unmitigated gall to have three white gay men at the table. Apparently, they needed the white gay community's input on how to reach Black people inside of Black churches. Can somebody say Massa? I can't! Fact: GlaxoWellcome is sponsoring a HIV University targeting Black women to teach them how to teach other Black women about living with HIV. You guessed it, the University is run by White women. In 1999 GlaxoWellcome still believes that white folks know what is best for Black folks. Can you say: "how ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm?" Last year GlaxoWellcome had some small grants available to get inner city homeless people into treatment services. Do I really have to tell you who got the money? Is the picture coming into focus now?

GlaxoWellcome is apparently suffering from some age old afflictions: the ideology of White Supremacy, the "Good Old Boy" Network and Institutionalized Racism. GlaxoWellcome has developed a storied history of coming into our communities with their heavy handed, arrogant and insensitive tactics practically dictating to us what to do. At least the other companies ask us what can they do to help. GlaxoWellcome makes AZT, 3TC, Combivir, Ziagen (Abacavir) and other medications. They've been in this business long enough to know better. I guess they just don't care.

Have a wonderful Pride Weekend. You can call us at (214) 421-4343 for assistance or e-mail your comments to Vaquinn@compuserve.com.

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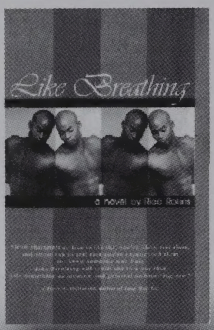

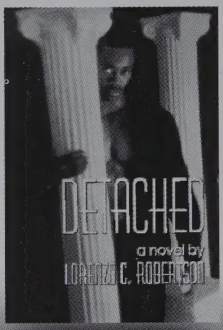

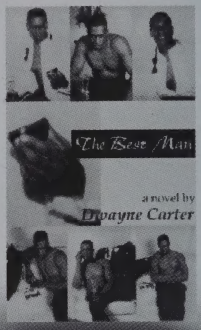

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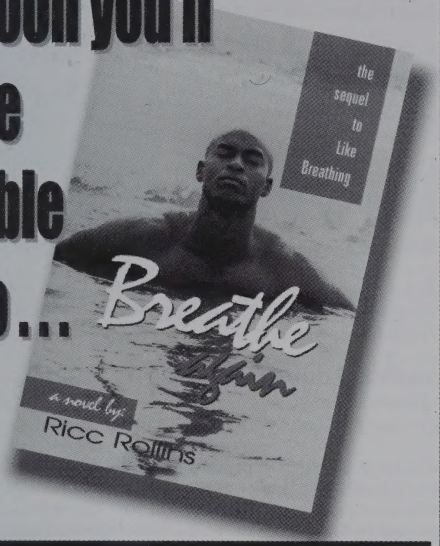

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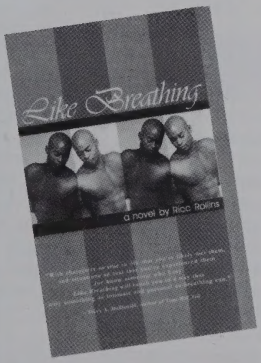

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Continued From Page 26

- DRIVING? Mid-town is only so big. Driving up/down Cypress wouldn't be a recommended first date activity. Just trust me on this one!
- PARKING? Okay, my Tennessee heritage is showing. But people still actually sit in cars and do stuff...IE talking. Not recommended, for it shows lack of creativity, imagination and more importantly -lack of funds.

QUESTION FIVE: OKAY, THE NIGHT IS ENDING, (it's rather late) WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

- HANDSHAKE (If you took separate cars to the event, you can only shake their hand and say call me?- hoping they will) *Note- please don 't try to tickle their hand while shaking it. That is so incredibly tacky.
- THE KISS AT THE DOOR: Closed mouth- says "thanks for the free-meal/movie but no love connection" Open mouth/tongue- says "that was some meal and I kind of like you." Continuous Deep-Tongue- says " I think we should Go inside and continue this Tonsillectomy.
- FOREPLAY HOW DO WE DEFINE IT?

  GRINDING? (We did this as children- you know, we called it hunching?) HIGHLY Recommended, for it is safe and no body fluids are exposed)

  FRA-TAGE- (It's french- for hunching) Sometimes called Outercourse- This is similar to grinding but done naked. Somewhat risky for you may come in contact with the other person's body fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal secretions or the dreaded pre-cum. Fluids which can transmit HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

  ORAL SEX OK, somebody had to mention it.

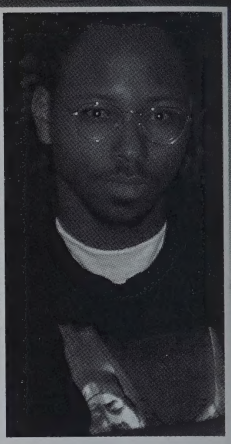
  SUCKING: Has been labeled a wonderful (the penis) vessel on which to travel. If done properly, the results can be immeasurable. Without a condom, it's ok but be aware of bleeding gums and dental hygiene. With a flavored condom, go for it. Highly Recommended.

  SUCKING (the anus) You may know it as TOSSING SALAD, or the Clinical phrase ORAL-ANAL contact. This is where one Puts their tongue up the Other person's rectum. Once again, if done properly, the results can be phenomenal. However, Not necessarily a Recommended first date activity- however there are always exceptions

OKAY, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW. ANYTHING FURTHER WOULD CONSTITUTE SEX AND I COULDN'T POSSIBLY SUGGEST INTERCOURSE FOR THE INITIAL DATING SEQUENCE. THOSE DECISIONS YOU CAN OR WILL HAVE TO MAKE ON YOUR OWN. LIKE I'M SAYING, IT'S NOT EASY BEING IN THE DATING FIELD. IN CLOSING I WILL ADD THAT WHATEVER YOU DO, CONTINUE TO DO IT SAFELY. PLAY TO WIN AND PLAY TO STAY AROUND TO PLAY AGAIN. ALWAYS USE PRECAUTIONS AND LATEX CONDOMS OR BARRIERS WHENEVER NECESSARY. AS ALWAYS, WE LOVE YOU, LOVE YOURSELF....BE SAFE.

My Beat

B. Graff Rucker - Gainesville, FL



Joe Thomas
Just What the Doctor Ordered
DiverseCity Records

Atlanta favorite Joe Thomas has been making his presence felt locally through his DiverseCity label, and after establishing an audience base with releases from techno and choral groups, he drops his debut recording. Thomas is a refreshing voice in this age of self-obsessed performers because he specializes in socially conscious lyrics that touch on racism, relationships, respect and community, particularly on the moving "I'll Be There For You" and the cover of the Staple Singers' "Respect Yourself," which is also the first single.

Unfortunately, his message is diluted by underwhelming backing tracks, especially the drum arrangements, which at times had me thinking I was listening to classic New Jack Swing instead of a late 1990s production. And in today's environment, if your beats aren't up to par you won't be heard, regardless of how heartfelt your lyrics are. With more live instrumentation or the use of better equipment, Thomas may find a warmer reception with his future efforts, but I was left wanting more from this talented man. People looking for an uplifting message in their music will be pleased with this disc. But despite the title, this is not prescribed to those looking for the latest innovations in r&b music.

Gwen Guthrie
The Ultimate Collection
Hip-O

Earlier this year, we reported on the untimely death of Gwen Guthrie from cancer. As a tribute to her life, The Ultimate Collection has just been released, and what a treat it is. More than just a celebration of her talent, the 14 tracks here confirm her legacy as one of the most distinctive stylists of the 1980s. Opening with her best known selection, "Ain't Nothing Goin' On But the Rent," the disc showcases the diversity of her talent, from the pioneering work with Sly & Robbie of the early 80s to her self-produced works from later in her career. Moods range from the playful "Padlock" and "Younger Than Me" to the sensitive handling of ballads on "Oh Donny No," (a tribute to Donny Hathaway) and "Oh What A Life." Guthrie's ability to transform others' material with her unique voice is evidenced on her covers of Bob Marley's "Is This Love" and the pop chestnut "They Long to be Close to You," turning the definition of saccharine pop music into something you actually want to hear.

Lovingly packaged with comments from her family, discographical information and an insightful essay, this is a worthy testament to a very special talent.

Polyrhythm Addicts
Rhyme Related
Nervous

Can there be a supergroup in the world of independent hip-hop? If so, this is as likely as we're going to get. An all-star assemblage of the skilled Apani B. Fly Emcee, Mr. Complex, Shabaam Sahdeeq and DJ Spinna, all of whom have recorded well-received solo tracks, the Addicts evoke memories of vintage 1992-era hip-hop. That is, solid rhymes that aren't about clothes, money or the thug life, supported by mellowed out beats.

MUSIC

It's becoming rare these days to find albums that rely more on skill than image or hype, and Rhyme Related is largely free of gimmicks such as skits or guest appearances by r&b singers. Legend Pharoah Monche from Organized Konfusion does appear on the chorus of "Take Me Home," but it speaks to the group's definition of quality hip-hop that they chose him instead of, say, Jay-Z. The rhymes are packed with quality lyrics and wordplay, as each emcee, limited to one verse instead of their usual three or four, sounds determined to put that much more feeling into the mic. With Spinna's arsenal of jazzy loops guiding the narratives beautifully, it's not difficult to hear why he's one of the rising producers in the industry.

An example of the sum being greater than its part, this is one of the most satisfying rap albums I've heard all year.

Jamiroquai
Synkronized
Sony

"You know this boogie is for real!"
This line is the refrain from the single off the new Jamiroquai album and a point the band has been trying to make for years. Ever since its first release in 1992, the group has been the subject of serious player-hating by people who are basically envious of their success. But the reality is that few bands this decade have dedicated themselves to the funk like Jay Kay and his merry man, and in some ways this is their most enjoyable record yet.

entertainment news

By B. Graff Rucker - Staff

Aimed primarily for dancing, the band's fascination with 70s black dance music has now got them incorporating stronger disco grooves than ever before, as "Canned Heat" aptly demonstrates. The dawn of a more mature and focused Jamiroquai emerges with the slamming "Supersonic," where the band showcases their signature instrument, the didgeridoo, and the smooth "Butterfly." This album also carries a more personal aura as well with two tracks seemingly aimed at former bassist Stuart Zender, "Black Capricorn Day" and the scathing "King for a Day."

Hate the man's sense of style if you must, but give him and his band props for delivering top notch albums that, I dare say, will be regarded as classics in the future.

BREAKING NEWS:

At press time, it was reported that **Tevin Campbell** had been arrested a few months ago on a charge for solicitation of lewd acts. He allegedly propositioned an undercover Los Angeles police officer. Two responses: 1) Doesn't LAPD have anything better to do? 2) I hope Campbell finds the same kind of support by his fans and the music industry as **George Michael** when he was in a similar situation. Ready or not, welcome to the family Tevin....Trouble is brewing for Teddy Riley. The r&b innovator had his vanity label Lil Man cut off by parent company Interscope. No word about the fate of labelmate **Queen Pen** or the rumors of **Blackstreet's** demise, but **Riley** is working on the **Guy** reunion disc....Prince is again working with a major label. He recently agreed to have his new album distributed by Arista. It is said to be a return to the party-oriented Prince of the 1980s.... **Lenny Kravitz** is recording a track with the Roots for their live album, due this year. In less inspiring rap/rock fusions, you can add the execrable **Kid Rock** to the list of "artists" recording with **Run DMC** for its comeback record, along with **Sugar Ray** and **Aerosmith**. Can anyone say "crossover sales on the brain?" ...

Net based news: Fans of **Me'Shell Ndegeocello** can order a custom disc of remixes and live performances when they buy her new album online. Hurry up because the offer ends September 30... BET is opening an Internet portal with the help of Microsoft, USA Networks and others. I hope the site is better than the channel...In any event, they will get competition from Globalmecca.com, a new company dedicated to the uplift of African-Americans...

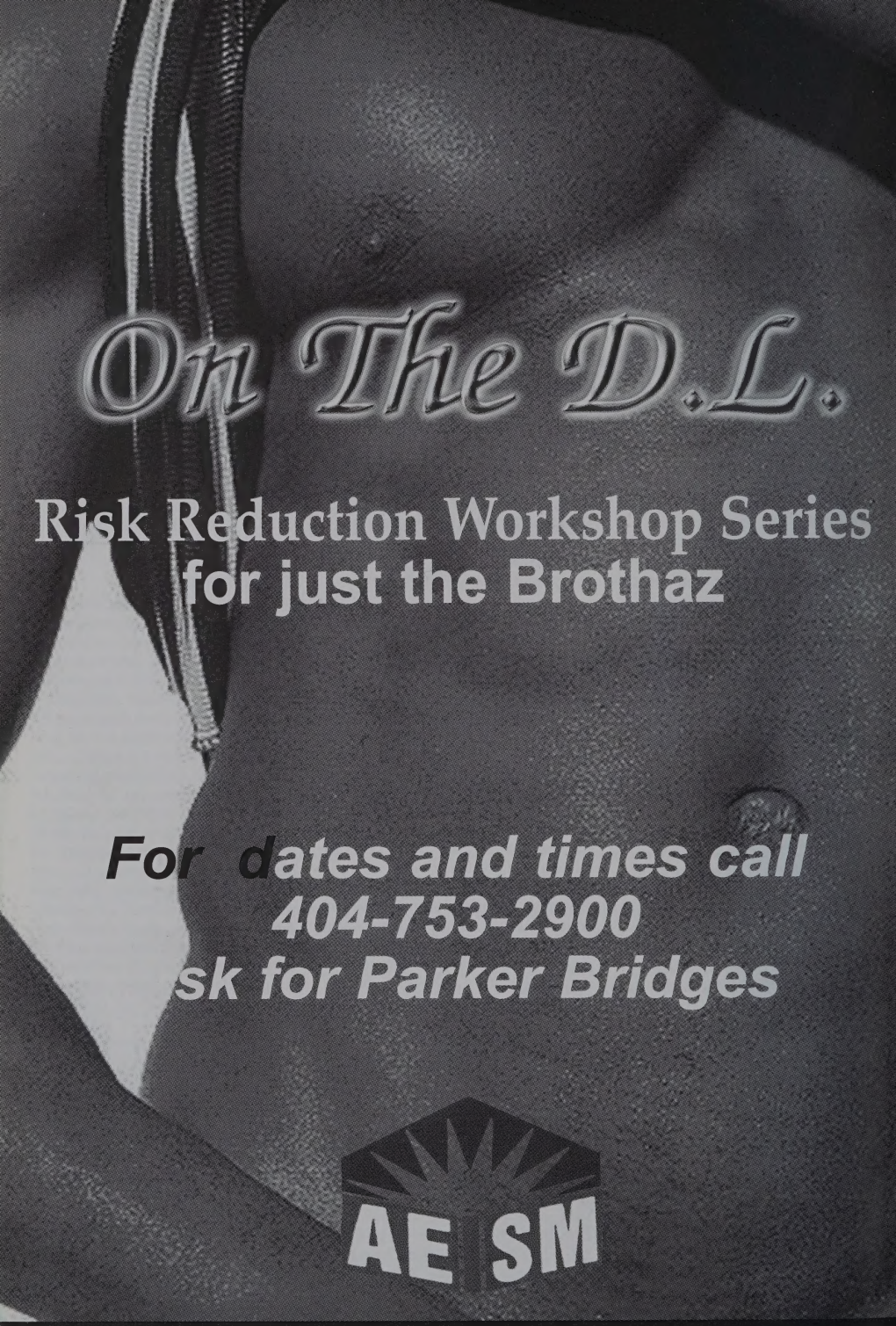
Business moves: **Jermaine Dupri** joins the list of rappers establishing ventures outside of rhyming with the launch of **So So Def** sports management. JD has clients already lined up and is eager to prove his guidance can work for athletes as well as singers....In a surprise move, **Dru Hill** has scored production and label deals for each member under the Dru World Order. Def Jam will be overseeing the project.

TUBE NEWS:

Eriq Lasalle set it off in a major way when he signed for $27 million to do the next three years of ER. This has got to be close to a record for a TV actor. Maybe now NBC will make him a more prominent character....**Rahsaan Patterson, Chante Moore, K-Ci** and **JoJo** and **BB King** are among the stars of a CBS miniseries on the origin of rock music. Titled "Shake, Rattle and Roll," it features long lost **Terence Trent D'Arby** as **Jackie Wilson**...**Busta Rhymes** has agreed to play **Samuel L. Jackson's** sidekick in the remake of Shaft. The man brings so much energy to his work that he may make the movie worth watching....Tavis Smiley is threatening to leave BET if he can't tape his show from California. Am I the only one rejoicing at the thought of his tired ass not being on my screen?

BAD NEWS:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) just made a ruling that allows the same company to own several TV and radio stations in the same city. Like sweepstakes rules, certain restrictions apply, but the bottom line is access to media is becoming harder and harder for people of color. The chair of the FCC, William Kennard, is a black man, he should be ashamed...The Fraternal Order of Police is starting a boycott of all artists who voice support of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Philadelphia journalist who was wrongfully convicted of murder (i.e., set up) and is on death row. The group's efforts include keeping a list of supports on its website and its president has been quoted as saying "we will not rest until Abu-Jamal burns in Hell.." An update on the KPFA crisis mentioned last month: the station's gag order was lifted and programming resumed as normal, but now the Pacifica organization has hit the station with a mandate to increase and diversify audience size in six months, a nearly impossible task, especially for a public station. This is a set up move on behalf of Pacifica to regain control of the station under the charge of being a "poor performer" in ratings. KPFA is the only one of Pacifica's stations to be subjected to these new demands. The battle continues.....



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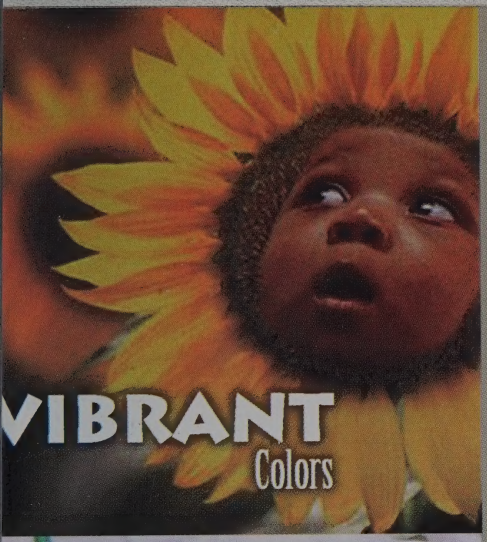

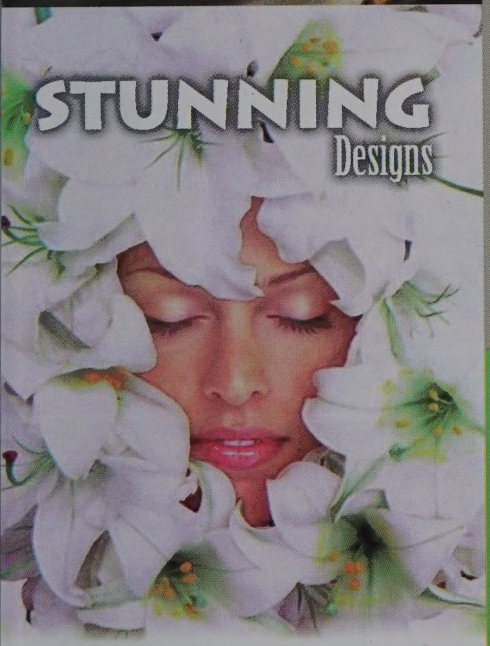

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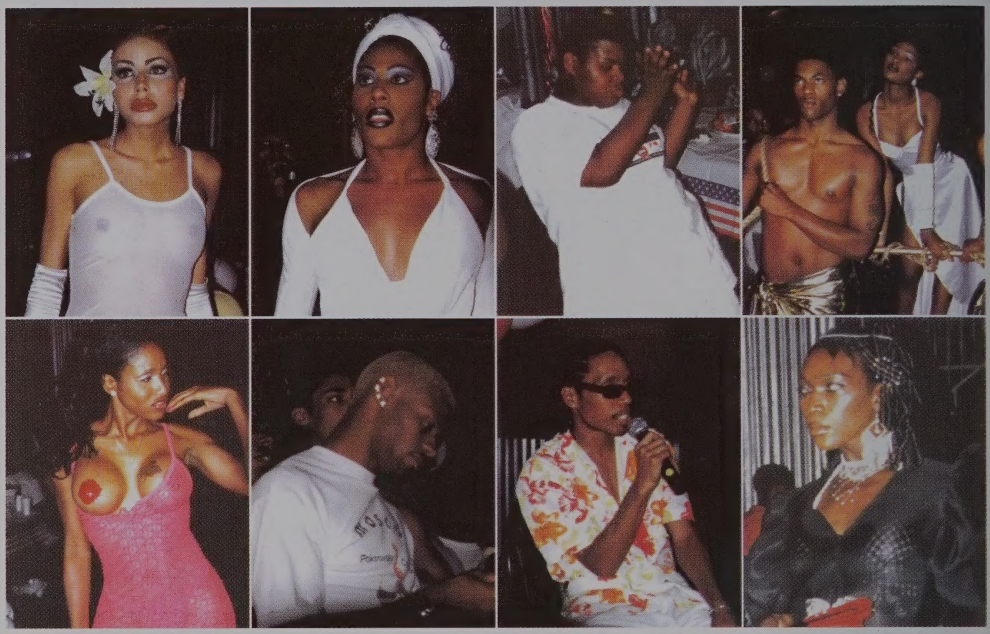
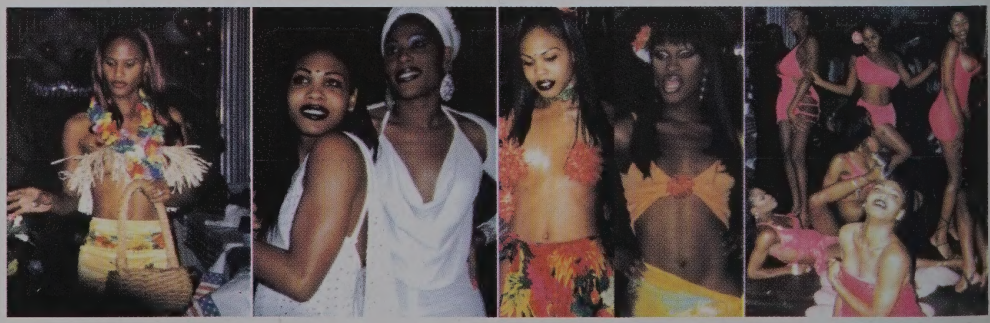
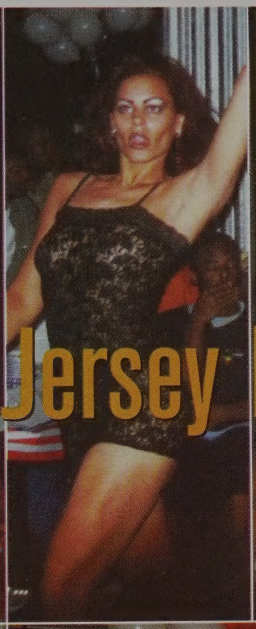
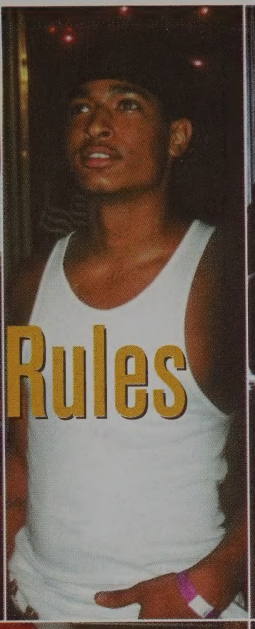


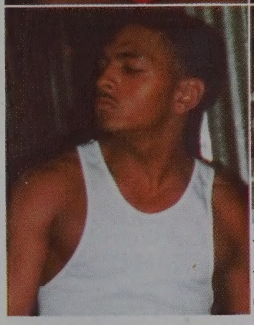
Wow , wow, wow is basically the best way to describe the most recent State Vs. State Ball hosted by Andre Mizrahi and the city of Atlanta, last years winners. Without a doubt, this was probably one of the best balls for the year. Great job Andre! The awards (pictured to the opposite page) were FIERCE. Dominating the event were House representatives from various cities such as New York, Washington DC, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Virginia, and New Jersey. Although the houses representing the city of Atlanta made a stella attempt to keep it's hands on the top award, those kids from New Jersey just wasn't havin it! Not only did they come in great numbers, but they came with precision and was definitely on point. Atlanta was leading after the first few categories when New Jersey began to just run away with most of the remaining categories of the night. When we (CLIKQUE) first got a glimpse of the Jersey kids in the opening march, we knew that we were in for an exceptional event. AWESOME JOB NEW JERSEY. Much

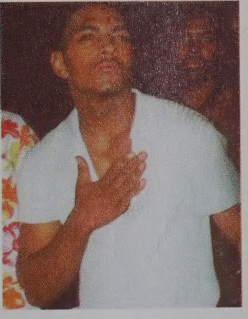
respect is also due to the kids from Atlanta, they made a great showing and added to a very competitive night. Props go out to André and Eric Bazaar for not allowing the ball walkers to question the judges decisions. This allowed the ball to flow along much smoother with less fuss. The next State Vs. State Ball will be held in New Jersey, who will be ready to defend their title. See you there. But until then, look for us during the MLK celebra-



New Jersey Rules

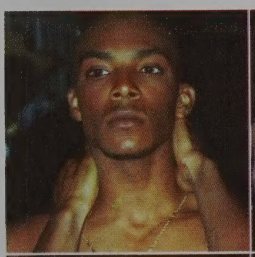


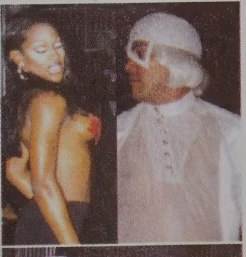


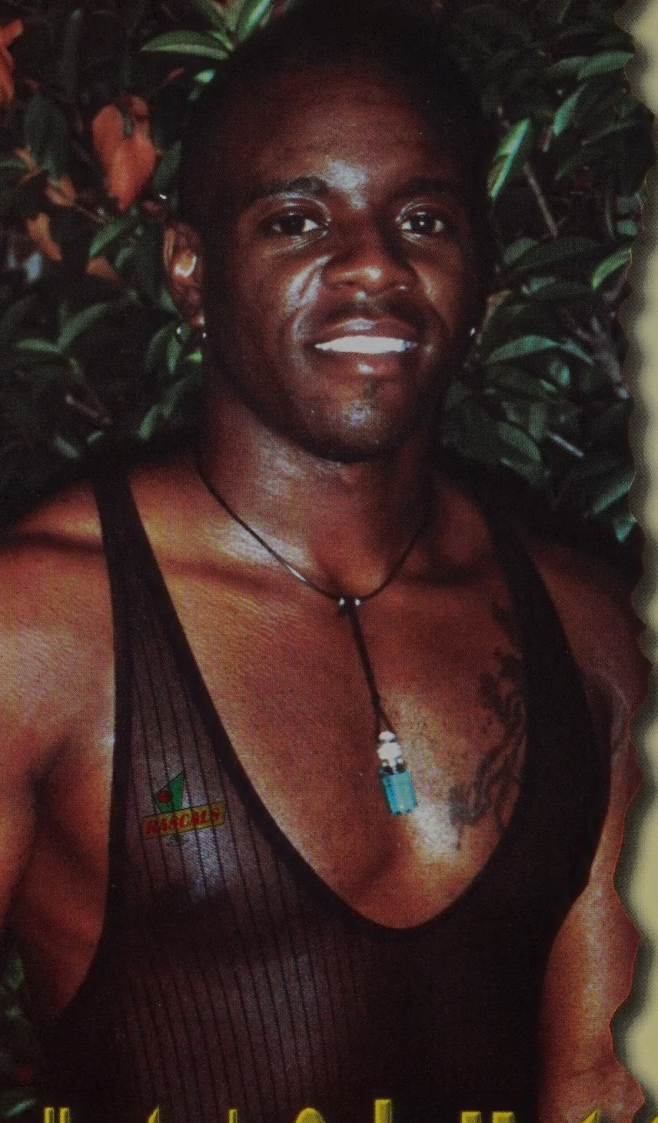
tion in Atlanta for the **Clikque Magazine Millennium Ball**. I hear that the grand prize is **$1200.00** and that the winner of one of the face categories will be chosen for Clikque's April 2000 Cover. See next month's issue for all of the details. Or Call us at 404-486-9655 for more details.

state vs. state ball

Atlanta, georgia • july, 1999







WEEKLY LINE-UP

THURSDAYS

COOKIE LACOOK HOSTS SEE YA NEXT THURSDAY TALENT NIGHT

$100 Cash Prize • 21 & Up $3 B4 11 • $5 After • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events)

FRIDAYS

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SATURDAYS

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Featuring Male & Female Dancers • 21 & Up FREE B4 11 • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events) • $2 Trash Can Punch

SUNDAYS

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So Who Said That There Was No Drag In Texas?

All Day Long Up In She!

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Shows Featuring Name Brand & Generic Entertainment

Show Times: 1st Show 5PM • 2nd Show 6PM • 3rd Show 7PM

Sunday October 24th

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"It's Time You Come To Texas Where Everything's Bigger & Better"

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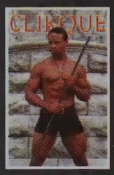
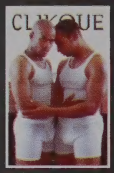
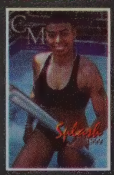
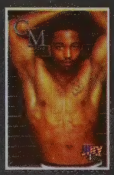
If you think that you qualify as a candidate for one of our future covers, please submit a full-body photo to me, Nestor Zapata, at Clikque Magazine. (See Address on Page 10) or email to clikquem@aol.com

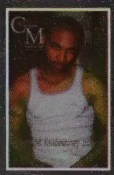
NESTOR ZAPATA, CLIKQUE CO-OWNER & COVER COORDINATOR











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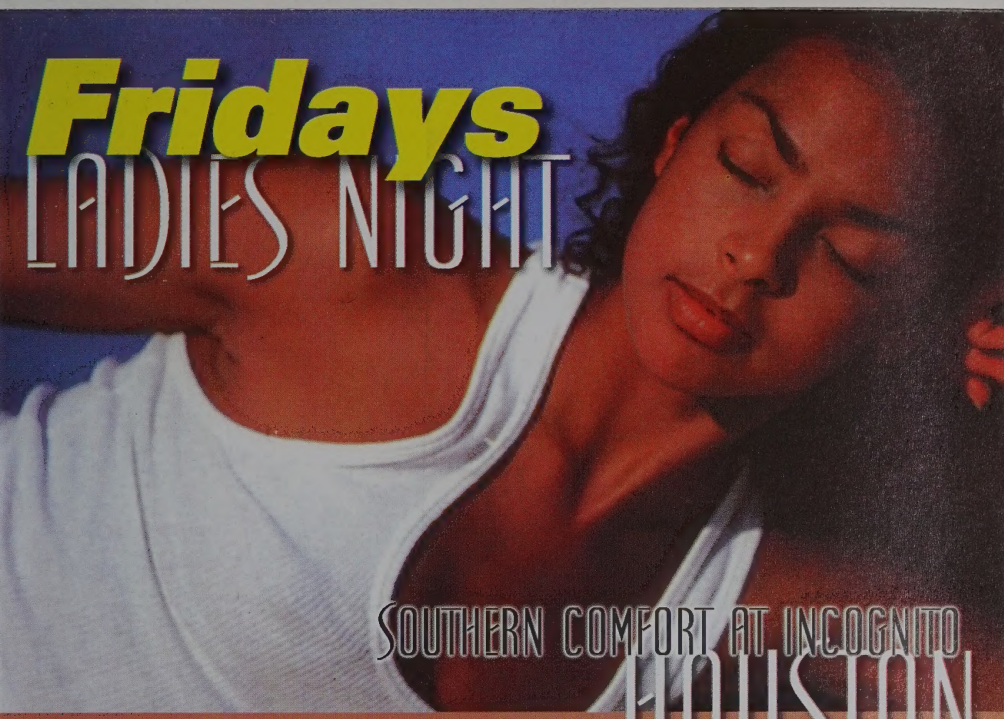

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$600 BEST Group Contest

September 24th

Cash Prizes

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"On Fridays, We Are Male Friendly"

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September 17th: Shaun Birthday Party
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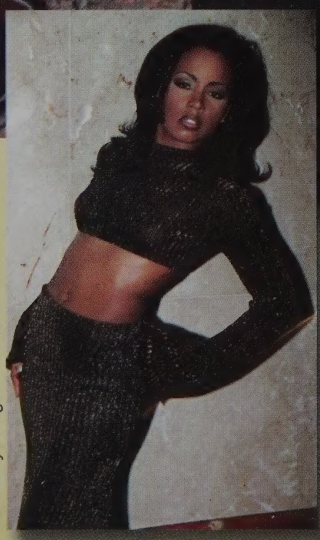
October 8th: E.J. Birthday Party
October 15th: Torry Birthday Party
October 22nd: Big Daddy Birthday Party
October 29th: Micky's Birthday Party

Clikque Introduces Taj



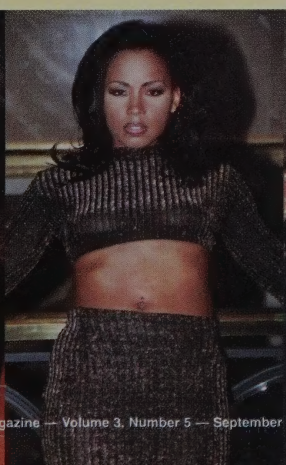
Look at what we've prepared for you this month. Taj is a 25 year old Capricorn standing her ground at 5' 8". Presently pursuing a degree in Business Management at Georgia Tech, Taj comes to us from New Jersey. When Taj isn't attending classes, she can be found instructing aerobic classes at a gym near you. She's also a personal trainer.

Taj enjoys modeling, acting, fitness, mountain bike riding, traveling and weightlifting. This sexy goddess is also community service minded. She enjoys lending her time and energies to various service organizations and groups.

Photos by Dwight Powell

Cool, Sexy & Sophisticated!

Make-up Artist: Alex Lucas 912-742-7669



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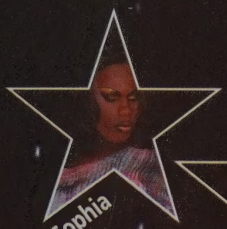
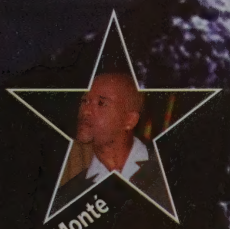
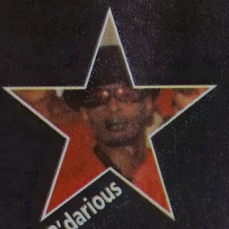
MONDAY WITH THE STARS OF THE CENTURY



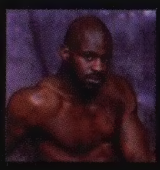
Show hosted by the Hilarious Sophia McIntosh & her witty side kick Dominique Rashad. Starring : Necole Luv Dupree, R'Darius Black, Stasha Sanchez, Sophia McIntosh, The Mother of Atlanta - Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Dominique Rashad, Mr. Black Universe - Monté St. James, Miss Black Universe - Raquel Lord and a host of special guests.

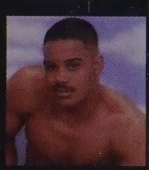
Professional Elevated Stage, Two-way Screen Monitor, Intelligent Stage & Club Lighting, Quality Sound System, Creative Set Design, and Theatre Style Seating. Main Show at 1AM , Mini Show at 11PM Drink Specials

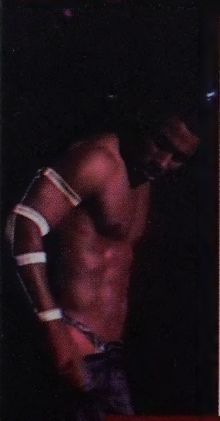




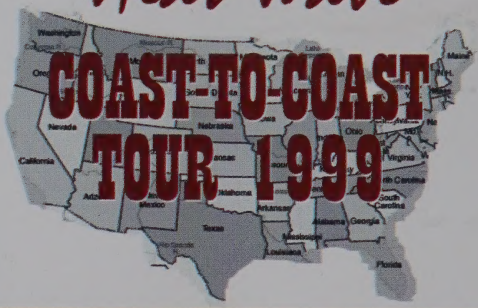
Ebony Elite
exotic male dancers©







"Heat Wave"



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PLAYGIRL
May, 1999

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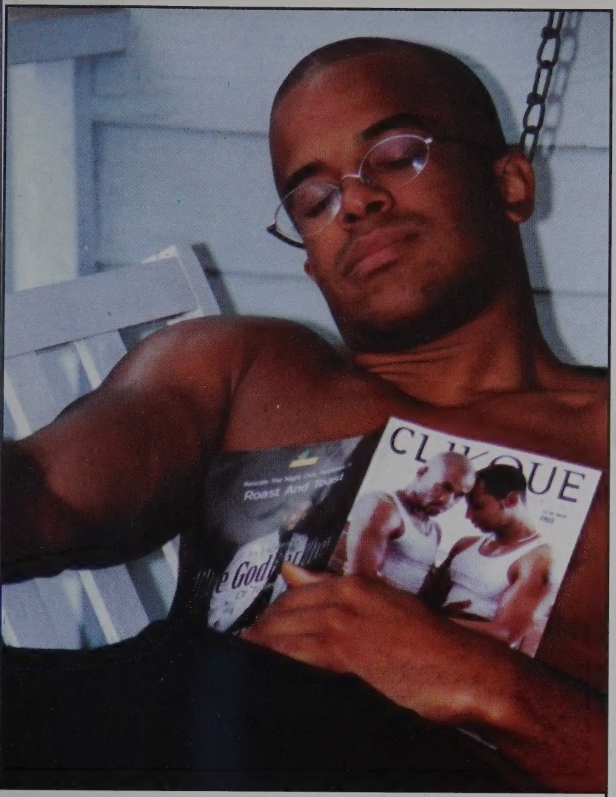

How Do You Like To Spend Your Quiet Moments?

Clikque MAGAZINE

We are proud to be the nation's leading magazine for and about same gender loving people of color!

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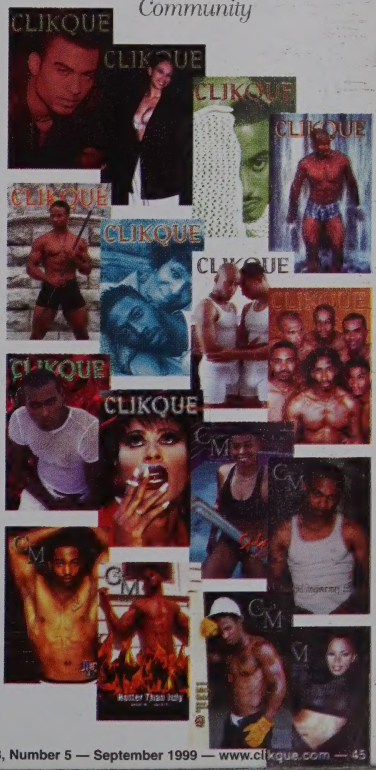
Clikque Magazine Is Your Complete News, Information and Entertainment Guide For Our Same Gender Loving People Of Color Community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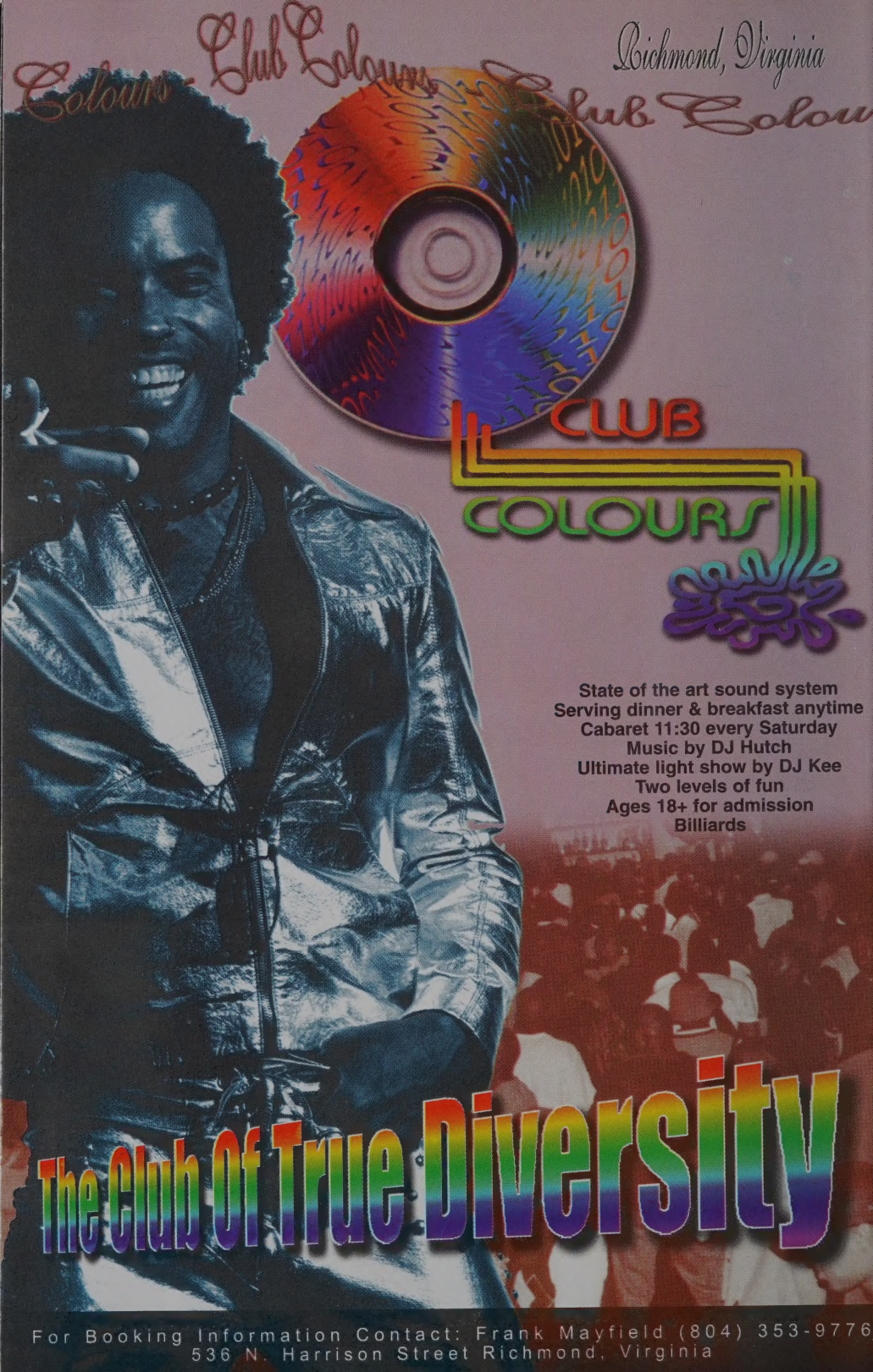
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Categories:
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Cash Prizes:
$700 - $250 - $125
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Sunday • November 7th, 1999

Categories:
Presentation, Talent, Evening Gown,
& Interview- Off Stage
Cash Prizes:
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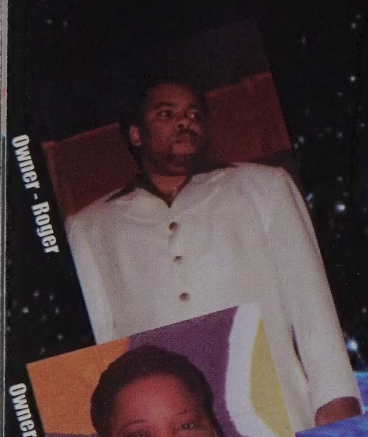
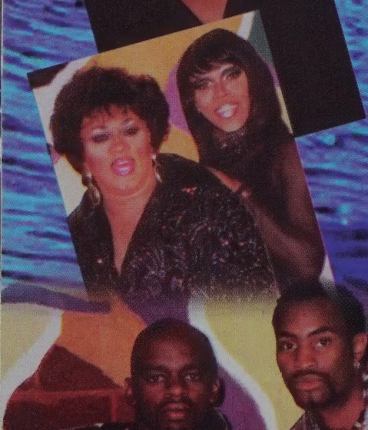
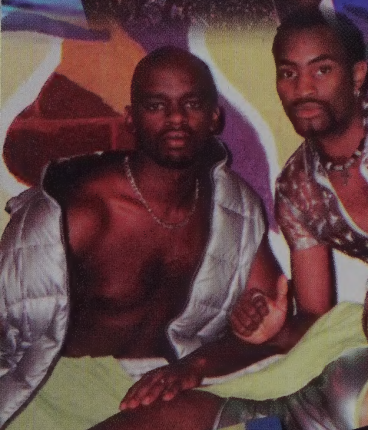
Entry Fee: $125

STUDIO 2000
CLUB CITY LIGHTS







Jackson, Mississippi

Weekly Line-up

Fiercest Fridays
with L.C. Simpson, Jr.

Saturdays
Great Entertainment by duo Dee Dee LaBelle & Kianna Vanessia Van-Micheals

Sundays
Sunday Night Madness with Contessa DeMoria as "Auntee Messy Maggie"

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September 17th
Miss Magnolia State America Prelim to Miss Black America

September 23rd
Female Impersonator of the Year Pageant

Where The Stars Come To Party

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Photo by: Umari

Nubian Spirit

By: Darryl!

Crossing the Great Divide

As we move towards the close of the main Pride season (keeping in mind that there are still prides planned for the fall months) we are left wondering if we will choose to build community throughout the year or if all this "togetherness" was just for the "pictures" and "show" for newspapers, corporate sponsors, and government entities? What does it take to keep the community of African American Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, and Same Gender Loving persons harmonized and on one accord? How do we challenge ourselves to go beyond the simple constraints of gender, sexual orientation, age, complexion, educational level, trade or occupation, etc. etc., etc? Can we name the barrier(s) to maintaining our "family" in a healthy way? Why do we continue to perpetuate dysfunctional relationships with our partners, families, and friends? What is at the heart of our discontent?

Wish it were that I had all the answers, but I do not. Sisters and brothers, I think that Aretha Franklin said it best "R.E.S.P.E.C.T., ...find out what it means to me...," it seems that at the most basic level of our existence, in our quest for acceptance and equality, we have forgotten to respect each other and recognize that we are still a very diverse people. Somehow the idea of Africa being a single place seems to have melded with the idea that all people of African descent think, feel, vote, and expect the same things monolithically all the time. We have not embraced each other while fighting for the rights we feel that as a group have been denied us.

So... even if all this is true or accurate or logical what do we do now that that the Great Divide is present? Well it seems that we should consider the needs of our collective community while not forsaking individual needs. But at times personal sacrifice means doing what is better for the group while putting things in place that will benefit each person as well.

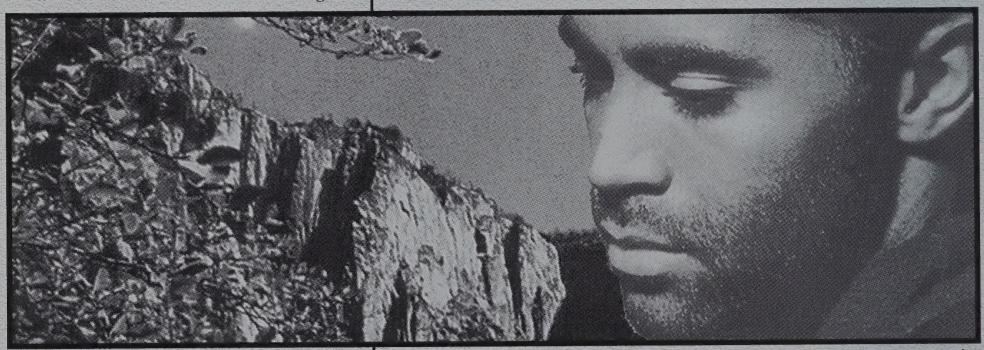
It is time for us to cross the Red Sea of confusion into the Light of Unity. Together we can..., united we will,... great are we and greatness is what we can produce. Divided we will continually be segmented, marginalized, and under-represented. Now is the time to choose to put aside petty differences and squabbles. Now is the time to cross that Great Divide that keeps us apart from each other. Sisters & brothers unite. The issues that keep us from being able to reason together, party together, or just BE together are smaller that we think but bigger in our imaginations. Take time to reach beyond your familiar comfort zone and connect or reconnect with all the members of our community. Seek to understand your sisters and brothers, rather than labeling and objectifying them. If we don't cross the "great divide" who will build the bridge to the land of freedom and prosperity we deserve and seek? The choice is ours. Harambee (let us come together). Amen/Ashe'.

Peace and Blessings.

How To Fight The Loneliness Blues

By Lee Jones

Last New Year's you resolved to find your soulmate. Your body tingled with excitement at the thought of sharing all those special moments in 1999 with your boo. Well, Valentine's Day came and you were single - but it was still early. Spring arrived but your new love didn't. Your anticipated summer of love left you out in the cold. You went to DC Pride, Houston Splash, At The Beach in LA or Chicago Pride, Hotter Than July in Detroit, New York Pride and ended the summer in Atlanta with nothing to show for it but some erotic memories and ballooned long distance bills. Now, summer is virtually over and Fall is around the corner and you are holding out hope for a Fall fling. But what if you don't find a mate in 1999? You promised yourself that you won't be lonely in '99, but as the year draws to a close you can feel that blue sensation starting to saturate your conscious. Your Y2K meltdown is around the corner.



How can you beat the single blues? Well, I have a few suggestions. But let me first say that one does not have to be single to feeling lonely. There are many people in committed relationships who are lonely. Likewise, there are a number of people who are single but aren't lonely. Therefore, loneliness is a state of mind - or a response to situation - rather than a circumstance. At some point, even for a brief moment, all of us feel lonely. I wrote the bulk of this piece when I was beginning to feel lonely. I was out of town sitting in a car waiting on a friend when I felt the loneliness blues creeping in. I quickly took out a pen and some paper to fight back. Here are some of the things that as a single brother I have used or heard suggested to combat loneliness.

* Friends - You probably have some single friends. Use them! Enjoy activities like going to the movies, to plays, shopping, dining out, going to sporting events, museums, to cultural activities or any social event that you enjoy. Or you can always get together and talk. Friends always find a way to make even the simplest activities seem special.
* Remain Active - While you are waiting for Mr. or Ms. Right, time moves on with or without you. Make the most of your time by staying active. Use your singlehood to do some self-improvement. Take a class at a local college or trade school, finish that degree that you have been wanting to complete, read more, learn a new skill, do some physical and spiritual self-improvement. Use your time wisely instead of sitting on your hands waiting to be rescued by your next man or woman. You have been meaning to do some things that you seem to never have time for. Now is the time. What's your excuse?
* Help Others - One never really understands how blessed they are till they discover what other people are going through. It certainly puts your bout of loneliness in its proper perspective. One might think that the world is coming to an end when they are lonely - that is till they see other people's world figuratively coming to an end. This does not mean that we should use the misfortune of others to make us feel better. But one never really begins to look at the bright side of their situation till they see what others are struggling with. Get involved and help somebody. By helping others you help yourself, too.
* Travel - Sometimes we get so caught up in our daily rut that we forget that there is a big world out there. Take quick weekend getaways to cities that you enjoy visiting. Or go to a place that you have never been. Go and enjoy the sites and sights - if you know what I mean. Visit the hot spots where our community frequents. Meet new people wherever you visit. At worst, you will have met some new acquaintances. At best, perhaps your soul mate lives five

hundred miles away instead of five blocks away. Traveling expands your horizon and can be just the ticket to drive away your blues. Also, think about taking one of your single friends with you so that you can double your pleasure.

* Recognize the Advantages of Being Single - There are some advantages and disadvantages to living the single life. If you are constantly feeling lonely it is probably because you are only focusing on the disadvantages. Nearly all of my friends who are in committed relationships tell me that I need to cherish my "freedom". There are some things that we have the luxury of doing as singles that we would not be able to do if we were in a relationship. While we often envy those who are in a relationship, they frequently envy us as singles. And you will really treasure your singlehood when you hear of some of the conflicts that surface between couples.

* Take Inventory of What You Want - How many times have heard gay and straight people say, "I am just looking for a good man (or woman)." But when you press them to describe their idea of a good man or woman they tend to hesitate or not have an answer at all. It is important that we know what we want before we get involved with someone. One of the worst things that can happen is finding yourself in a relationship with someone that is really not compatible with you. Why waste your time being in a relationship with someone just to say that you have a man or woman in your life when they do not meet your standards? Remember that the key to life is not getting everything that you want, but wanting everything that you get. It is important to have a relationship with someone that meets your criteria. Otherwise, your time will be wasted and you'll have another emotional wound to nurse.

One of the questions that we need to ask while we are taking inventory is are we really searching for a mate or are we looking for a convenience partner? What I mean by a convenience partner is someone who we only want to be with when we go out or have sex, otherwise we have no time or place for him or her in our life. That is not the same as being in a committed relationship. Take this time to figure if you really want to be involved with someone or just conveniently occupied at your leisure.

* Take Some Time to do Self-Inventory - Take time to develop yourself as person. Sometimes we don't get our blessings immediately because we are not ready for them. While we are letting time slip through our hands waiting on someone, God may be waiting on us to get our 'house in order' so that we can be ready for that person who will be coming our way. We might have too much emotional baggage, too many issues, or are just not mature enough to handle a relationship. Use this time to address your weakness and anchor your strengths.

Also during this period examine your patterns of behavior. Check to make sure that you are maintaining your integrity by not acting out of desperation. What I mean by this is checking to see if you are trying to find companionship by doing things that are unsafe or out of your character. Nothing can cause us to lose our dignity and self-respect faster than acting out of desperation.

While you are doing your self-inventory, recognize that only you can make you a complete person. You don't need someone in your life to make you complete. God made you complete - no one can give that to you. The sooner that you recognize that you are only one that can complete you, the wiser your choices will be. You will think twice about whom you choose to be intimate with. Perhaps for the first time in your life, you'll find yourself saying no to some offers that you used to readily accept. You can't wait for someone to come along and make you complete; you have to recognize and act like you are complete before you meet that special someone. Otherwise, when that person leaves are you back to being incomplete again. Are you going to let someone have that much control over you? June Jordan reflects in one of her most salient poems, "you are the one that you have been waiting for all your life". When you value who you are you will begin to view yourself as a treasure; a gift for that special person that will come into your life.

* Find Solace in the Word - There are many examples of persons in the Bible who felt lonely, forsaken, or alone. But yet they found strength in their faith and were able to move onward and upward. Sometimes when we think that life is kicking us we automatically assume that we are being kicked backwards when in reality we may be getting kicked forward. The Word tells us that all things work together for the good of those who love God. This includes broken relationships and bad experiences. The Word tells us that we must learn we must be content in whatever state that we find ourselves in.

There is the example of the servant Elijah who was hiding in a cave because he felt deserted and alone, among other reasons. But God had to tell him twice to come out of the cave. How many times will God have to tell you to come out of your cave?

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with feeling lonely. Human beings are social creatures by their very nature, but when we are denied that part of our existence then we feel lonely. However, there is something wrong when the loneliness grips us so tightly that we are virtually paralyzed by putting our lives on hold. With all the other difficulties that face in life it would be a crime to compound them with the loneliness blues. There are three types of problems: those that we have no control over; those that we do have control over and don't act on it; and those that we can control and we do something about. You can do something about feeling lonely. But having someone in your life is not the sole answer to your loneliness. Remember that even individuals who have a mate can feel lonely.

It is okay if you get lonely. Just be sure that loneliness doesn't get you. Feeling lonely can set you up for some harmful escapes like alcoholism, drug abuse, sex abuse, and overindulgence to the point that it threatens your health. At some point, we all get a dose of the loneliness blues. But like the great masters of blues idiom like Ralph Ellison, Duke Ellington, Romare Bearden and others, we can always handle them with style. Loneliness only wins when we don't fight back. The minute we decide that we don't want to be lonely, the blues has got to go. Go forth and conquer your loneliness.

Continued FROM page 19

they cannot be separate entities.
I began to meditate more on the topic and as I did so realized that based on my own experiences and upbringing I am black first.
In my everyday life, I am more supportive of black organizations, yet belong to no gay organizations. When there is an issue at hand concerning blacks, I get involved and become outspoken, ectatic or outraged; however gay issues I am not nearly as passionate.
I'm always proud of being black and will go to war with anyone who is negative about my race; but that energy and prowlness are not as pronounced with gay pride.
Another reason I believe I am black first is because I was educated about my racial background from an early age but nothing about my sexual identity and how to come to terms with it until I became an adult. Society as a whole does not teach us or encourage us to be gay first; it is a quality enhanced as a person becomes more mature or has a better understanding of what being gay means.
The positive aspect of submitting my comments is that it helped me realize that the way I live my life says I am black first, but my heart says I am both equally. Now I must make adjustments that reflect what my heart says and hopefully more of us will feel we can be both equally.

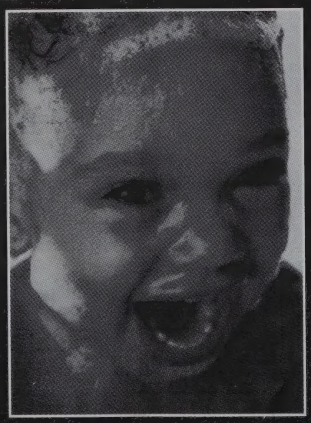
Ivan Myers- Atlanta, GA

Without a doubt, I will always be black and let us not forget that black is beautiful. My epithelial shade of brown necessitates that as a black gay man I do not lose focus on the fact that America is still a racist society. Therefore, I must be very cautious of looking for an image of myself in white gay males and in their community. I should only socialize and have ties with them when it is beneficial to building economic, social, and political power and facilities for my black gay brothers and sisters; this in my opinion, is the only time black and white men should be working together. My gayness is a beautiful gift and very important essence of my total existence. I currently define myself as a black gay male who has strong sense of pride, integrity, and consciousness of working to improve the well-being of black people and other people of color as well as directing this same sense of consciousness towards eradicating racism, black homophobia, heterosexism, and other prejudices within this dysfunctional United States of America. There are in my opinion, three challenges facing all of us who currently define ourselves as black gay men: First, we must develop an analysis of homosexuality in the black community that is affirming and constructive. Second, we must correct the bias and mis-information that has been put forth by black homophobics such as: Reggie White, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Angie and Debbie Winans, Creflo Dollar, Rev. Bishop T.D. James and a white host of others. Third, we must not allow the hurt and anger that we may feel toward these homophobic brothers and sisters, cause us to dismiss them or their ideas on other issues that we may agree on; but stay over distance from them.
In closing, Am I Black or Am I Gay? I am both, I will not choose one over the other. I must work steadily towards keeping a balance between the two.

Jerry T. Barnes- Tuscaloosa, AL

Well I truly believe that I was born gay. I know that GOD put me on this earth for the enjoyment of life. I first started out with different sexual feelings when I was about 10 years-old. I can remember walking to my local stationary store in New York where I grew up to buy the muscle man physique magazines to look at how gorgeous the men's bodies in the magazines were. I fantasized about being with one of those stacked guys who I could lose my virginity to someday. I was sheltered from the exciting glamour and glitz of New York City.
My parents told me that Manhattan had a whole area of people who were different so then at the age of 14 my family moved down south. Well as a grown up at the age of 26 my parents meant those GAY people who lived in the city or the Greenwich Village area. After my 18th birthday, I went back to Brooklyn, NY to visit my sisters and we caught the L train all the way into the village. I couldn't believe my eyes, wow! So many gays, lesbians, and transgender people walking, talking, eating, and clubbing. I would like to have been a part of the gay lifestyle during my young years which would have helped me with my coming out issues, depression, and my first sexual experience.
My first sexual experience was at the tender age of 18. I learned as the years went by without any support from family members or a gay group because we lived in a back woods country town with only 900 people. I realized that being gay is hard. Gays are viewed as sodomites, evildoers, and freaks to society. Gays and lesbians are often plagued with discrimination in employment, housing, healthcare, and activities of daily living. I have been laughed at because people say that I'm too feminine so it's always harder to get and maintain the respect of others. At the age of 26, I've decided that regardless of who doesn't like me that I must live my life to the fullest despite the homophobic society in which we live because I fear for my life everyday when I leave home not knowing wether or not I will make it back home safely after hearing all the violence on gays, lesbians, and transgender people lately in America. So I just take living as a gay man one step at a time and enjoy every step of the way.

Jack Miller- Baltimore, MD



October's Topic Of The Month

How Do You Feel About A Lesbian or Gay Couple Having/Raising A Child?

Society says that this can only bring harm to a child, what do you think?

Ways Of Submitting Entries

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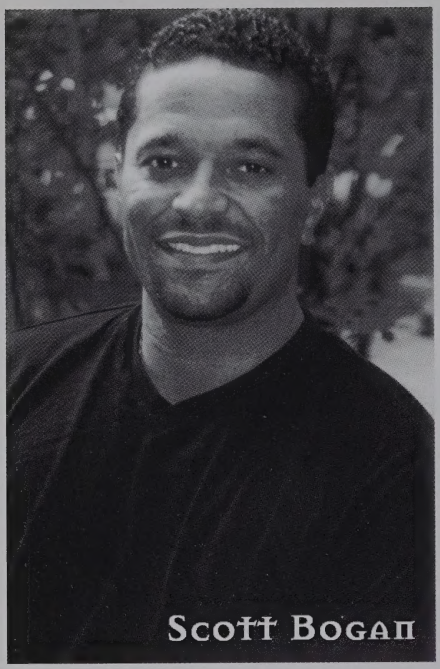

Worthy of Greatness

This week I had such a strange revelation. There is a guy at my gym that I like and I think that he likes me (no, I am not in the fourth grade anymore). The only way that I can tell is that he stares a lot. We do speak to one another, but it is only a casual hello. I was talking to my personal trainer about this situation (I often bounce things off him). I explained to him how the night before I was laying in bed and all of a sudden this person was on my mind. Not as a sexual thought, but in a connected sense. It was as if I felt completely connected to this person. I immediately jumped out of bed and started praying and asking God why this person was so heavy on my heart. The next day at the gym I asked my trainer (Jeff) if he had ever felt connected to someone that he had never even met and had no clue why he was feeling this connection. He explained to me that he feels that kind of connection all of the time and he believes that we are drawn to these people for a reason. He broke it down a little further and explained that he felt that kind of connection with me when we first met. When Jeff and I first met 2 years ago, I was just at a turning point with my depression. I was seeing a counselor and I started working out again. He said that when he first saw me he knew that I was unhappy and he just wanted to come over and hug me and let me know that everything would be ok. And believe it or not he did exactly that. I told Jeff that I could never go over to a stranger and introduce myself to them. I went on to say that I am very much an introvert and when it comes to situations like that I have not a clue what to say. What Jeff said to me next, knocked me over like a ton of bricks. He said that I don't feel like I am worthy. This statement really slapped me in my face. I thought about it the rest of the night.

While I've have always known that I had self-esteem problems I could never seem to get to the core of the issue. I started thinking about why I am HIV positive, why I don't go out to clubs, why I don't hang out with my friends that often, why I don't allow myself to date, why I don't allow people to get too close to me- this list could go on forever. All of these things say that I don't think that I am worthy. I am HIV positive because I did not value my own life enough to tell my partner to put on a condom. I don't go out to clubs not because I don't enjoy myself, but because I don't think that I add any value to the environment. I don't hang out with my friends that often because I think that I don't make enough money or drive a nice car (most of my friend's make 90K or more). I don't date that often because I often think why would someone want to love me. I know that this feeling of unworthiness stems from my childhood. I can remember my parents arguing and my dad saying to my mother that he could have played professional football if she had not gotten pregnant (with me) and he had to marry her. So, if my own parents did not want me why should I value my life? I cannot dwell in the past. I am here and have been here for 31 years now. So the question for me is now that I know, this how do I turn this around?

To be honest I really don't know how to turn this around. I have been praying for acceptance. I have been asking God to give me the strength to accept myself for who I am and where I am in my life right now as a child of God. I was telling Jeff the other day that I don't know how to get through this. He said that one way to get through this is to know that Jesus died on the cross for us and our sins. That in itself makes me worthy of greatness! It was almost like he gave me another hug and told me that everything was going to be ok.

Next time you get full you may lose more than your head.

You know condoms can lower your risk for HIV, right? Trick is, you've got to be able to use it. If you're too full to think straight you could make dangerous choices. To get more info or help, call AID Atlanta at 404.872.0600 and ask about the PARTY project.

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WEAPONS OF Destruction

by Lawrence Bryant, Atlanta

Much of the viewpoint concerning the toleration of homosexuality in society is saturated with stereotypes and misinformation about the character of gays: particularly discouraging are the brazen untrue association between issues such as homosexuality and pedophilia. On the other hand religious scholars all too often use the daggars of Sodom and Gomora to force repentance, denial, and psychological warfare against our community. When the walls of Jerico come tumbling down, they are no where to be found. Just because they believe this fallacy does not make it the gospel, whites used scripture for 300 years to keep us in slavery and we all know that was not the will of God.

It is a known fact that heterosexuals commit most of the horrific acts of sexual crimes against our children yet some of this nations most noted scholars continue to perpetrate these mean spirited allegations. They are adamant in their vilification of gays and only see us as immoral delinquents whose only purpose is to sodomize children and engage in promiscuous sexual escapades. On the other hand when opportunity arises for legislation to promote monogamy through same sex marriage and cooperation through domestic partnership, it is oftentimes vociferously repelled. This type of irresponsible rhetoric promotes societal hatred and soe seeds of bigotry, violence and contention toward gays. The misinterpretation of the Sodom and Gomora myth is the most appalling offense perpetrated by religious folk in an attempt to castrate our dignity as well as our spirituality. This misinterpretation can be found in the book of Genesis, chapter 19 verses 1 to 11:

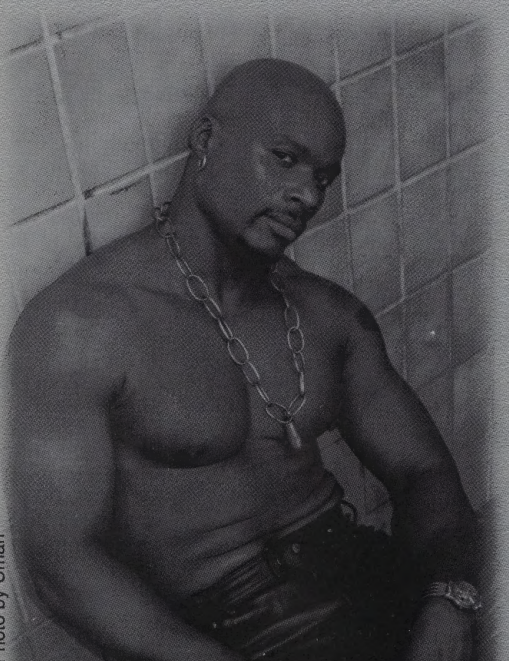

Photo by Umari

The sin of Sodom was the inhospitality, abuse, and offense to strangers when understood in its historical context. To use this text to condemn homosexuality is the real sin. The prophet Ezekiel (16:48-49 states this clearly: "This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, surfeit of food and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.") The sin of the Sodomites was that they refuse to take in needy travelers. Many in the Black church in the same vain have abused gays for being different and made us feel like strangers in our own culture all in the name christianity. This oppression and hatred is the very sin that haunts Sodom, yet it is the behavior that gays have been subjected to many times over.

The very people who bash us with Sodom and Gomora are themselves the real Sodomites.

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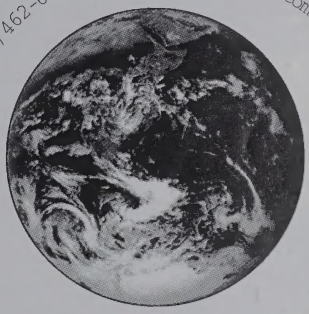

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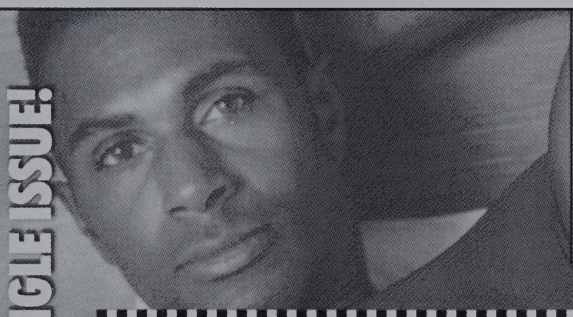

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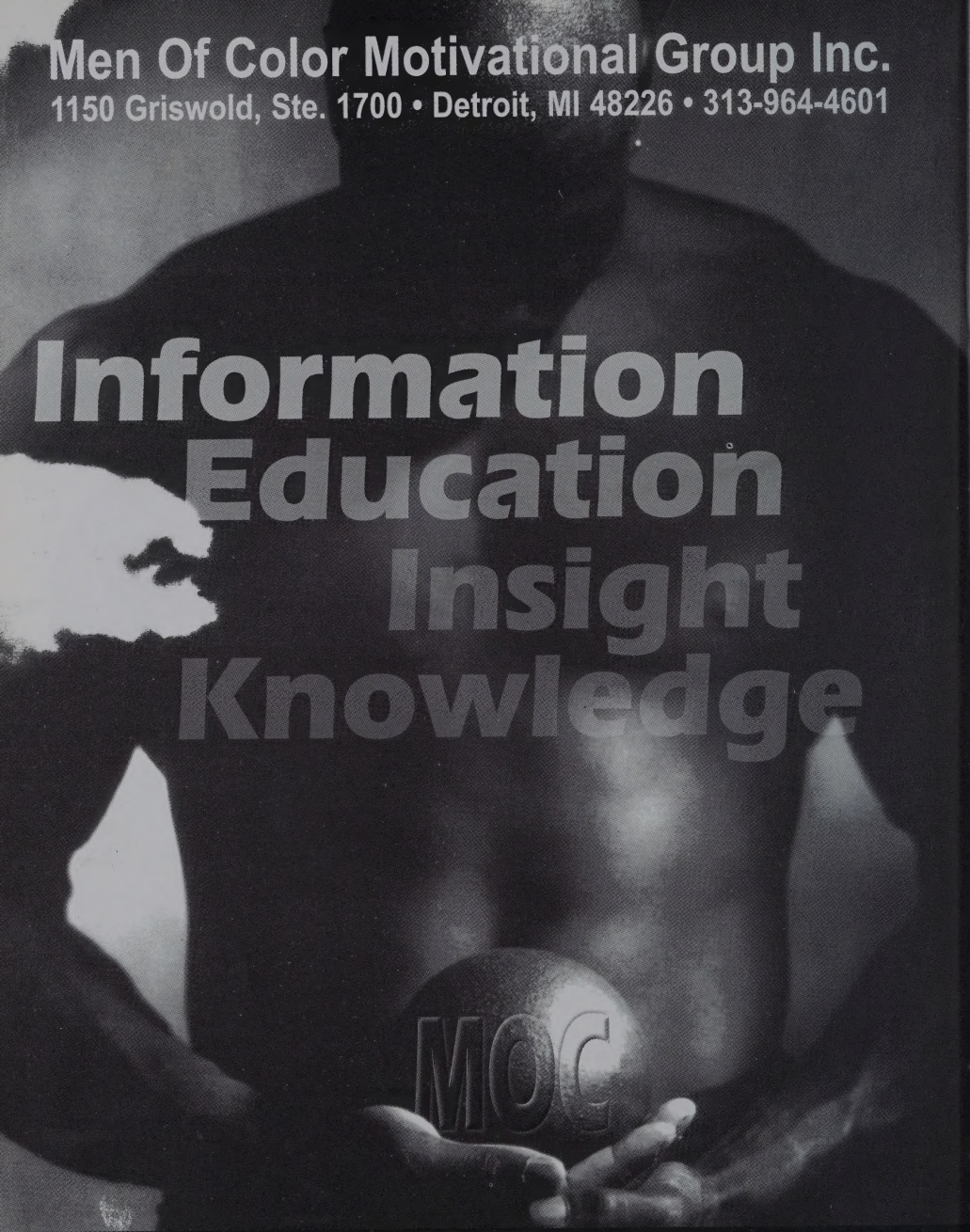


MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.

OCTAVIA
The Ultimate Face

by Danny Chislom

The name 'Octavia' is a statement in itself. The person known as Octavia is a living, breathing legend. There are few people in the ball scene that can be identified solely by their first name. There are even fewer people whose name inspire awe and respect and automatically invoke images of beauty and glamour. Octavia St. Laurent is the face by which all fem-queen faces are measured. She is THE face girl of the 80's and has continued to serve throughout the 90's. With the new millennium, Octavia, now 35, shows no signs of slowing down as she has retained all of her youth, vigor and beauty.

In the beginning, it was hard for Octavia. As a kid she was effeminate and was teased and harassed because of her small size and feminine ways, however, she knew she did not want to be a gay man. Then she met Robert (Marcomeni) St. Laurent who helped her get in touch with her identity and suggested she become a girl. Robbie, who for the most part can be considered Octavia's 'gay mother', named her 'Octavia' for the singer Octavia Lambertis who was Octavia's best friend in high school. Upon meeting other beautiful fem-queens, including Carmen Xtravaganza, she realized that she wanted to live her life as a woman. She began working as a showgirl and learned everything about hair, make-up and clothes on her own. Life was hard and at times depressing and for a time she turned to drugs. However, she has been clean for a year and wants everyone reading this to know they can do the same, because drugs are not the answer.

With Supermodel Cindy Crawford | With Sis & Bro | Octavia serving Face

When she began walking balls she didn't start winning immediately, although she did win 'BQ in Drags' her first time walking. Then she won 'Face' at Fran and Erskine Christian's Legends Ball in 1986 and everything turned around. As the 90's rolled around her interest in balls decreased, as they became more political. As Octavia puts it, "Balls back in the day were better quality. It was about being the best."

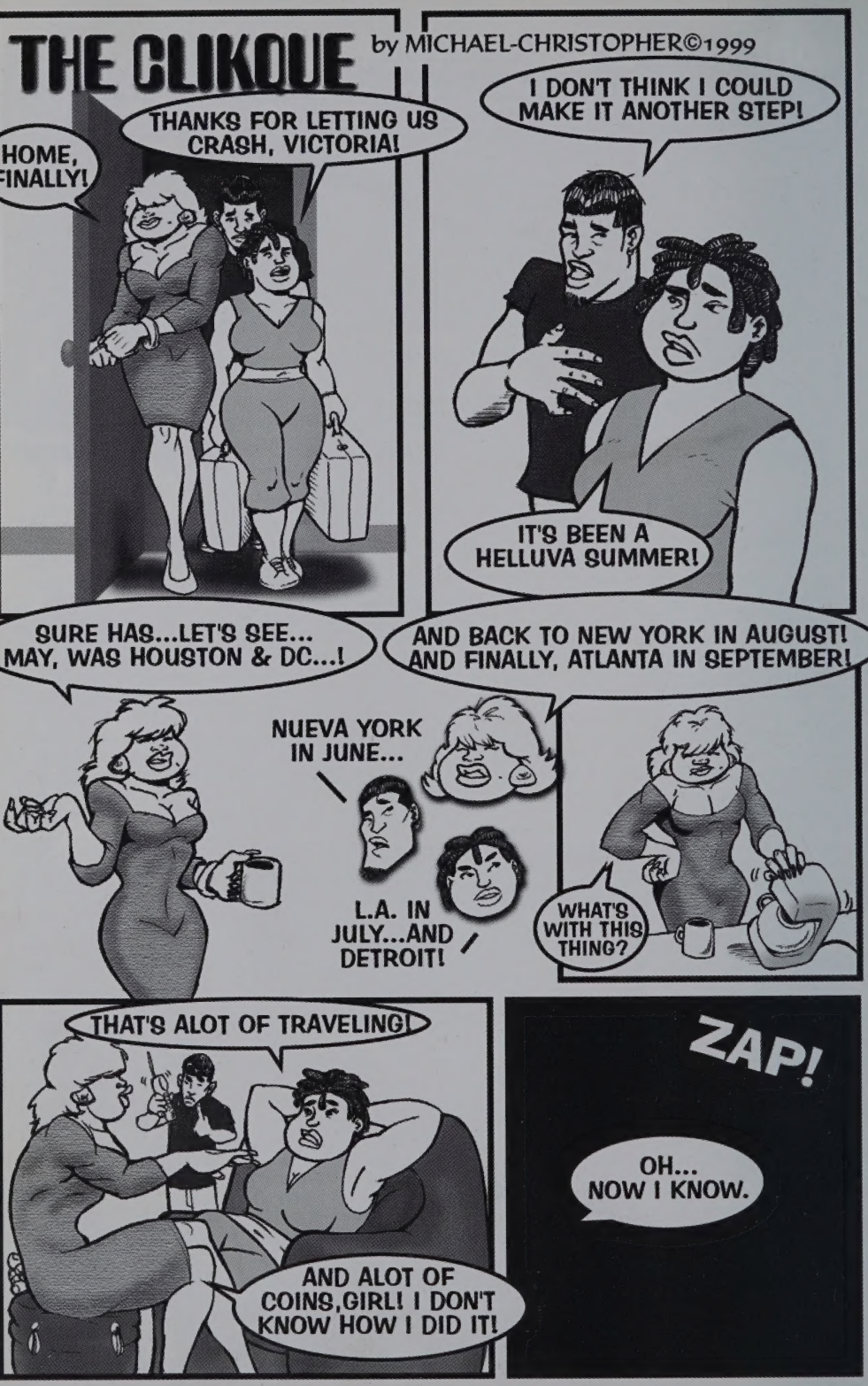
Octavia was already a star in the New York City ballroom scene, but the Jenny Livingston documentary "Paris is Burning" made Octavia known on a national level. The "Paris is Burning" experience was a bittersweet one at best. On the other hand, she feels it was very negative. There was a lot of lying and exaggerating by young stupid kids who wanted to be seen and heard. However, it did make her feel important and how people finally listened to what she had to say. A major positive point that stemmed from exposure in "Paris is Burning" was that the doors to the entertainment world began to open, doors leading to Octavia's first and only real love; singing. She got to perform a showcase at Sweetwaters, a legendary nightclub in Manhattan as well as opening for entertainment veteran, Tony Bennett. She has also appeared on the 'Donahue' show and had a role in the Danny Glover-Matt Dillon movie "The Saint of Ft. Washington".

Octavia's desire is to be a pioneer; to knock down walls in the way Dorothy Dandridge did before her. She wants to take what Sylvester, Divine and RuPaul have done to the next level. The road is long and hard and knows it. And also what people expect from her when they meet her. "They see me as this beauty with no talent and no problems, just interested in being beautiful" she says.

But talent is something she has in abundance (I've heard her sing!) because it runs in her family. Her cousin's grandfather was Babe Wallace (of "Stormy Weather" fame), her uncle was Louis Armstrong and her mother was a member of 60's girl groups the Crystals, the Chantelles and the Sweethearts and sang back up for Jackie Wilson. Octavia's mom has been a great source of support, without her she would not have made it this far.

Of course, no singer is without their influences. Octavia enjoys the lovely and powerful voices of Mariah Carey, Rachelle Ferrell and Regina Belle, but her all time favorite entertainer is Barbara Striesand because of her voice, her drive for excellence and her magic, grace and charm.

Octavia, herself, possesses all of these qualities and one more; faith. "If you believe in God, yourself and the impossible, all your dreams will come true." Also, she has learned that everything in life is like a boomerang; whatever you give, you get back. With her faith, determination and enormous talent, she is bound to knock down those barriers and be the star she deserves to be.


THE CLIKQUE
by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER©1999
HOME, FINALLY!
THANKS FOR LETTING US CRASH, VICTORIA!
I DON'T THINK I COULD MAKE IT ANOTHER STEP!
IT'S BEEN A HELLUVA SUMMER!
SURE HAS...LET'S SEE... MAY, WAS HOUSTON & DC...!
AND BACK TO NEW YORK IN AUGUST! AND FINALLY, ATLANTA IN SEPTEMBER!
NUEVA YORK IN JUNE...
L.A. IN JULY...AND DETROIT!
WHAT'S WITH THIS THING?
THAT'S ALOT OF TRAVELING!
AND ALOT OF COINS, GIRL! I DON'T KNOW HOW I DID IT!
ZAP!
OH... NOW I KNOW.

By Various Individuals

The Florist

One day a Florist goes to a Barber for a haircut. After the cut, he goes to pay the Barber and the Barber replies: 'I am Sorry, I cannot accept money from you; I am doing a Community Service'. The Florist is happy and leaves the shop. The next morning when the Barber goes to open his shop, there is a Thank you card and a dozen roses waiting at his door.

A Cop goes for a haircut and he also goes to pay the Barber and the barber replies: 'I am Sorry, I cannot accept money from you; I am doing a Community Service'. The Cop is happy and leaves the shop. The next morning when the Barber goes to open his shop, there is a Thank you Card and a dozen Donuts waiting at his door.

A brother goes for a haircut and he also goes to pay the Barber and the barber replies: 'I am Sorry, I cannot accept money from you; I am doing a Community Service'. The guy is, of course, very happy and leaves the shop.

The next morning when the Barber goes to open his shop, guess what he finds there..... A dozen brothers waiting for a free haircut...

The Firm

One morning while making breakfast, a man walked up to his wife and pinched her on her butt and said, "You know if you firmed this up we could get rid of your girdle." While this was on the edge of intolerable, she thought herself better and replied with silence.

The next morning the man woke his wife with a pinch on the breast and said, "You know if you firmed these up we could get rid of your bra."

This was beyond a silence response, so she rolled over and grabbed him by his package. With a death grip in place she said, "You know if you firmed this up we could get rid of the postman, the gardener, the butler, the pool man, and your brother."

The Friendly Skies

There was a plane flying over the Atlantic. The pilot got on the intercom and said that the plane was experiencing difficulties and that the weight would have to be lessened on the plane.

So he said that everyone had to throw their luggage off the plane. Everyone did.

He got back on the intercom, "The plane is still too heavy, so people are going to have to jump off, but we're going to do this alphabetically.

"All African-Americans please jump off the plane." No one stood up.

He got back on and said, "All blacks, please jump off the plane." Still no one stood up.

"All coloreds,please jump off the plane." Again, no one stood up.

Then the smart, well-mannered little black boy turned to his prim and proper, well-educated, affluent mother and said, "Mother, aren't we all those things?" And the mother answered, "No baby, we niggas today."

The Parrot

A guy is having marital problems. He and the wife are not communicating anymore and he's lonesome, so he goes to a pet store thinking a pet might help.

The store he walks into happens to specializes in parrots. As he wanders down the rows of parrots he notices one with no feet. Surprised, he mutters "I wonder how he hangs onto the perch?"

The parrot says, "With my penis, dummy."

The guy is startled and says, "You certainly talk well for a parrot."

The parrot says, "Yes, thank you... I'm a very well educated parrot. I can discuss politics, sports, religion, almost any subject you wish."

The guy says, "Gee, you sound like just what I was looking for." The parrot replies, "There's not much of a market for maimed parrots, you know. If you offer the proprietor $2 for me, I'll bet he'll sell me."

The guy buys the parrot and for three months things go great. Every day when he comes home from work the parrot tells him Clinton said this, the A's won, the Giant's lost, the Pope did this and so on.

But then one day the guy comes home from work and the parrot waves a wing at him and says, "Come in and shut the door."
The guy says, "What's up?"

The parrot says, "I don't know how to tell you this, but the mailman came today. Your wife answered the door in her negligee and he kissed her right on the lips."

The guy says, "Oh, just a momentary flight of passion."

The parrot says, "Then he fondled her breasts." The guy says, "He did?"

"Yep," says the parrot. "Then he took off her negligee and started sucking on her breasts." The guy exclaims, "My God, what happened next???"

The parrot says, "I don't know. I got a hard-on and fell off my perch!"

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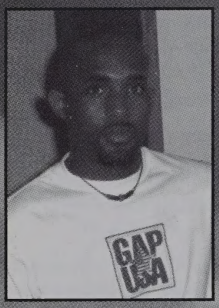
Door "655"

by Queshan Hayes

Part III



Before I start Part III, I just wanted to thank my loyal fans and new fans. I just wanted to let you all know that the story is completely fictitious. The characters are false and the situations are those that I have created. Of course, it has all happened in some of our lives, but I am truly writing from my creative soul. So stop asking me if I'm Craig, because I'm not! Sometimes I wish I was, but I'm not. So continue to support the magazine, enjoy the story, and send me some fan mail!!

Last month, you witnessed the scene of two men in a grinding session. One of them knowing exactly what he was doing and the other just plain confused. The door was opened to William's past. You, but not Craig, got a glimpse of where his confusion began: Uncle Wes. After finally realizing that he was rubbing dicks with another man and calling out his uncle's name, William snaps out of his trance and sends Craig on his horny little way. Now in bed and drifting off to sleep, Craig wonders why William called the name "Uncle Wes." He still however services himself and falls asleep. But before he has completely fallen to darkness, his phone rings. It's William.

Craig froze as he sat up in bed. Speechless, he couldn't utter a word. The silence was so thick that the operator wanted to jump in.
"Hey, you there, man?"
"Umuhyeah, I'm here," Craig said, finally able to speak. After the events of less than two hours ago, he couldn't believe William had actually picked up the phone and dialed his number. The alcohol slowly lost its affect on both men. And they were both thinking clearly, now. Craig in his bed wearing only boxer briefs with a semi-erect penis. William standing in his kitchen with loose fitting basketball shorts, pacing back and forth. His heart beat shook his whole body and he just knew that Craig could hear it over the phone. It took all of his inner strength to sound calm and cool as if nothing was wrong.

"It was just calling to make sure you got in O.k., man," he stammered. Hell, it was only a few feet away. What? Was he going to get shot by a drive by gunman while walking a flight of stairs from William's door to his own? Was a meteor going to come flying down and strike him unconscious? Did he get in O.K.? What in the hell? Yet, Craig decided to play along.

"Oh...yeah, I made it in okay. No deadly meteorites or drive by gunmen out to kill me tonight," he said as he rolled his eyes.

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

"Oh, you're the comedian tonight, huh?" William blurted out with a forced, nervous laugh. "That was really some strong shit, huh? I'm finally chilled out, now. I don't even remember you leaving. When did you dip?"
And with those words, Craig knew His own heart stopped. His eyes closed tightly. He almost gasped, but he had learned self-control from his father.

So that was the plan: We were drunk and we don't remember shit. Craig could not believe his ears.

"Hey William, its really late, and I've got to get some sleep. Talk to you tomorrow?" Craig said as he rubbed his temples.

"Sure, man. Later." And the conversation was over. Dial tone...

Although he had seen the whole scene before, it was much harder to swallow when you became an actor in it. Alright, you get drunk, but who would forget what just happened hours ago? Craig knew the answer immediately after he thought it.

"A confused closet case," he thought "Shit, its almost four o'clock. Fuck this shit! Fuck it!" he grumbled as he rolled over and pulled up his covers. And soon he was again out like a light. Although his mind was full of questions and his heart full of anger, he was still human. He was indeed exhausted. Maybe he would sleep like a baby, or maybe not.

****

William hung up the phone and paced back and forth in his kitchen. He stopped to look into his refrigerator. Nothing there.

"Why the fuck you always get me in trouble," he said as he looked down and grabbed his crotch.

"Shit!" he said as he slammed his fist on the kitchen

counter. What had he done? It was like he was in a dream, a bad dream. He had invited a neighbor over, they chilled, drank some alcohol, watched some T.V. and ended up rubbing dicks. He stopped pacing and decided it was time for bed, but he couldn't get Craig out of his head.

"What in the fuck am I supposed to do now? How am I supposed to sleep on some shit like this? Fuck you Uncle Wes! Fuck you!" he said as he slammed the door of his bedroom. He sat across his bed with his head cupped in the palms of his hands. Just then, he had a thought. The thought caused his dick to tighten ever so slightly. He stood up and walked over to his night stand. He scanned through his programmed phone list. After a lot of pressing buttons and thinking, he finally pressed the DIAL button. After a few tones, he got a ring.

"Hello?" a familiar voice said after only the second ring.

"Yeah, whassup? What you doin' up so late," William said in a sexy voice with a touch of thug flavor. After a second or two of silence, the voice responded,

"Because, I ...I knew you were going to call tonight. I felt it...I felt it deep between my legs," the voice said with a laugh so sexy that Janet Jackson would pay to include it in one of her sexy numbers. This made William's dick grow even harder. After tonights events, he was confused, angry, mad, and still horny, all of the ingredients for wild, passionate sex.

"So when you comin' over?" He asked.

—Dial tone..
William held the receiver to his ear and smiled for a second or two. He knew what this meant. It meant he was getting some tonight. If there was any added discussion after that single, most important question, he knew it meant she was either occupied or had an early day the following morning and he would have to service himself. But neither of these were the case tonight. She had hung up. She was on her way.

Cicely was her name and doing the nasty was her game. She was a caramel colored sister with shoulder length, permed hair. And she was indeed beautiful. Her make-up was always flawless hand her wardrobe was fierce. William had met her out at a local club one night and boned her that same night and the following afternoon. Craig had heard them...She was on her way to the ride of her life.

William's dick was rock hard. He stood up and it pressed even harder against his shorts, sending a wave of ecstasy that made his toes curl.

"Shit, I'm rock hard. You'll take care of this shit, won't you Cicely," he said to himself while grabbing his bulging crotch. He began to stroke it ever so slightly, just enough to excite himself even more. Standing there beside his bed, he reached into his shorts and wrapped his fingers around his massive dick and squeezed. He closed his eyes and tilted his head back. His back arched and he tensed up his muscular ass to get the complete sensation that his hand caused in his shorts. Standing there, he slowly slid down his shorts with his free hand. The newness of the cool air brushed across his ass,

Continues on Page 65

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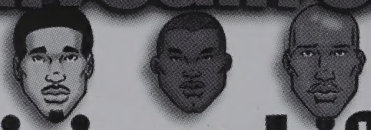
by Michael-Christopher
Creator of
THE CLIKQUE



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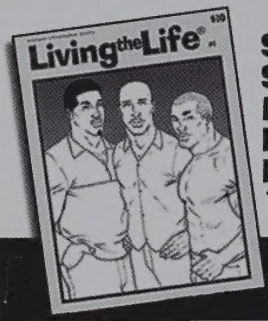

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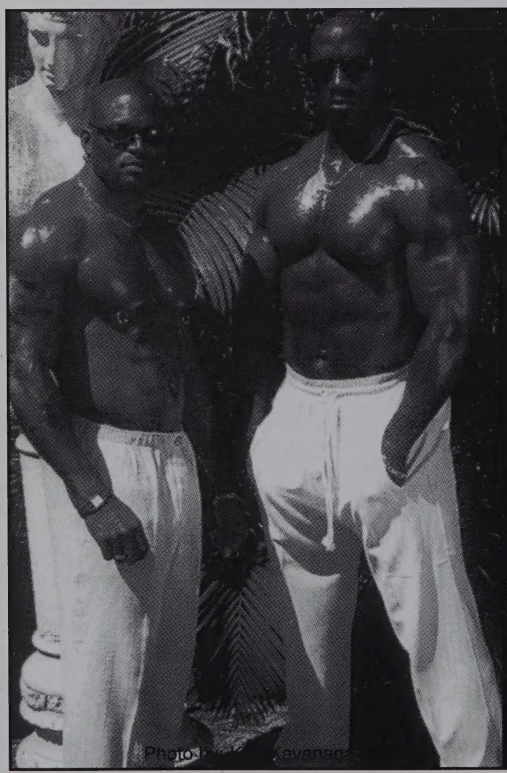

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By Queshan Hayes - Staff

Continued from page 63

muscular thighs, and hairy balls and heightened all sensations. It was as if he was in his own sexual paradise. He spread his feet further apart and began rolling his hips back and forth. His stomach muscles tightened with each wave of his hips. The heat that his hand created made each stroke seem orgasmic. Really getting into it, he cocked his head to one side and licked his sexy lips.

"Mmmm...shit.. yeahhh..." he moaned as he rolled his hips in an out. His knees began to buckle.

"Oh shit...oh shit.. ohhhhh..." he moaned as he shot a thick, creamy, stream of cum from where he stood to the wall across his bed. Stream after stream exploded until it became a drizzle down his hand.

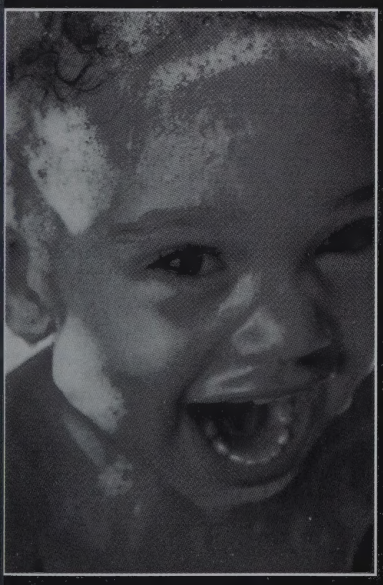
"Shit! That's what I'm talking about," he said as he looked at the mess he had made. He bent down to pick up his shorts. Now, totally naked, he walked to his bathroom to get a towel to wipe his hands and clean up. As he bent down to wipe his love juice from his carpet, he looked at his clock.

"Shit! She'll be here any minute," he mumbled as he threw the towel into his closet where his dirty clothes had piled up. He jumped into the shower and turned on the water. Soon he was foamy with soap, scrubbed with a loofa, and rinsed. He reached for his towel and wrapped it around his waist. Just as he was reaching for a Q-tip, he heard a knock at his door. Although he had just shot a major load, he was ready again. The thought of Cicely standing at his door in only a trench coat made his still sensitive dick swell again. He smiled as he caught a glimpse of himself in the mirror.

"Fuck that nigga upstairs. I'm gonna get some pussy tonight," he said as he turned off all of his lights in his bedroom. He reached over and lit two vanilla candles. He checked his night-stand. Yep, his condoms were there. Instead of trying to dry himself off, he thought that it would add to the effect if he was till wet when he answered the door. The water made his muscular chest appear even more massive and cut. He turned to answer the door when a thought entered his mind. He dropped the towel. Just then, he again heard knocking. This time it was a quicker, impatient knock.

"I'm coming, I'm coming," he mumbled. "You're gonna love this," he said to himself. He was so excited, he didn't check the peep hole. He leaned against the wall in a 'boy-next-door Tyson' pose, hard dick and all. He turned the knob and dramatically opened the door. There stood Craig in the doorway, almost breathless.

"Hey William...ummm...wassup?"



October's Topic Of The Month

How Do You Feel About A Lesbian or Gay Couple Having/Raising A Child?

Society says that this can only bring harm to a child, what do you think?

Ways Of Submitting Entries

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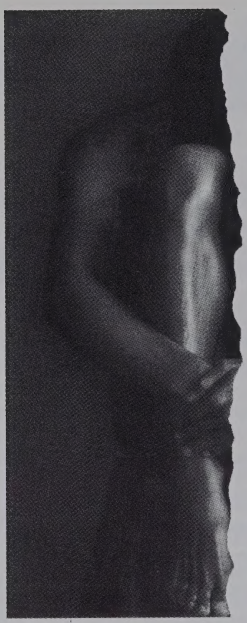


I was in shock...I lay there stunned, waiting on the wrath of God to strike me down. I couldn't move. I could barely breath. He was already in the shower, singing some hip-hop song. Every muscle in my body screamed, NO! This could not have just happened. Please God, tell me this did not happen. My body had been satiated. I was fucked by MY nubian prince. Not that I'd never been fucked...quite the contrary. I've been fucked by some of the best. But this...I never knew anything like this. I'd watched this brotha grow up, being raised by my grandparents.

He'd come down for Freak-nik and was staying with my partner and I before going on to Daytona. We'd been up all night drinking and getting re-acquainted. Talking about the past 19 years.

The couple next door, whom my partner and I often got busy with, decided to come by for one of those moments. A married couple; both bisexual. My partner wasn't feeling it, so he left the party up to the two of us and decided to spend the night at his best friends.

It was to be me fucking the husband and my prince fucking the wife. It started with the two of us performing oral sex on them, bringing them to climax. High five for our oral skills.

We aren't finished. I make the husband get on all fours on the bed. MY prince does the same to the wife. They are facing each other. We enter them from behind.

DAMNATION

— By: Khalid Dawuud Idawu —

We start a slow methodical rhythm; grinning at each other wondering what sensations the other may be feeling. The couple kiss each other moaning in delight. I sense the husband stroking his dick as the wife rubs her clit. We fuck them.

Positions change. We now have them on their backs, legs high continuing our assault. We smile and wink at each other. Positions change again and hands start exploring other bodies, mouths explore, and there is more group action going on. Hands help dicks and hands help clit and mouths perform oral things while dicks slide in ass and in pussy, from all parties.

My ass is lubed and I'm laid on my back at the edge of the bed. Wet pussy straddles my face and I start to lap. My legs are raised as I watch her perform oral sex on MY prince. Her husband begins to glide his dick into me. He does so, slowly. The sensation is wonderful. First, only the head, poking me with quick short strokes opening the sphincter, making me relax. I feel the juices from her pussy flowing all over my face, head and neck, and I continue to eat her. I close my eyes as his dick enters me fully. Damn!

He **holds my ankles and fucks me; deep** and long. **I feel a hand on my dick, stroking me** with each thrust. **Loud moans from above tell** me that MY prince **is cumming in her mouth.** Keeping my eyes **closed I let the fucking take** me over.

She gets off my face and lays next to me and massages my chest and nipples as I grab the ass of her husband while he pounds this ass. Damn boy. Fuck me man. I turn my head and open my eyes to kiss her. She reciprocates. Her husband raises up from behind her and starts to lick her ear. WHAT? Her husband!...Who is fucking me? OH God NO! No! YEssss! Damn! Oh God this dick is good!

Every fiber of my being is being rejuvenated. I cannot believe the absolute pleasure I am feeling. Oh shit, I want to cumm. Goddamn me! I will burn in hell...oh but shit, fuck me. Yes, that's it. Fuck this ass.aaaaaaarggghhhhhh shit.. baby, that dick is good.
(Jesus save me)

I grab his ass as he lays on me and thrust with all his might.
He sucks on my neck adding to the sensation. We are sweating like beasts. I'm pulling him in deeper, securing my home in hell. He thrusts, saying to me "Dear god, I love you!" Fucking me senseless. I rub his perfectly formed back. Feeling the solidness of his body, no longer a boys body. The body of a man. Filling me and bringing me to climax with his MANHOOD!

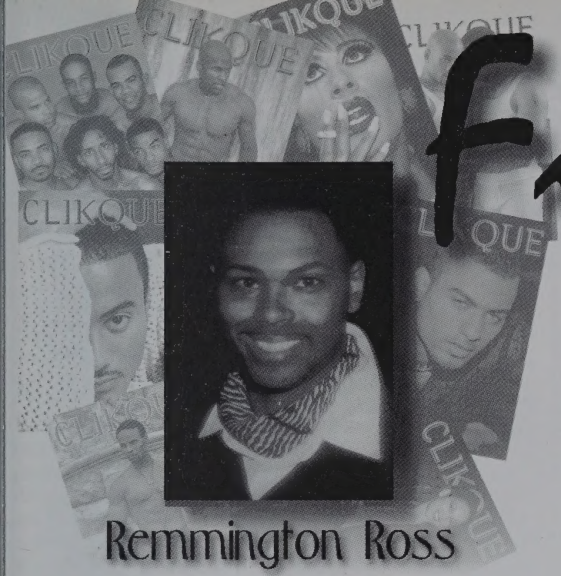
Gotdammit, you're making me cum. 'cum on baby, get that nut! I'm gonna bust one in you baby. yeah, I'm gonna cum in you baby. Ah shit, baby, here I cum. Hearing him scream aaahhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I can't hold back. As his dick explodes in me, I shoot with him, splashing our chests, face and mouth. He collapses on me. We lay there breathing as if we'd just run the Boston marathon. The only sound is our breathing. We notice that the married couple had already departed. We were alone.

The clock on the wall...oh my god. This cannot be: it has been nearly 2 hours. No way!

The bed is soaked thru. The stench of sex fills the air. His dick plops out after more than 5 minutes. He kisses me and jumps into the shower.

I lay there, dazed and confused. Completely satisfied, like never before, but so overwhelmingly disgusted. Completely free, yet bound by damnation. DAMNED!...Completely...Damned! my brother planted the seed...that was just planted in me. Yes, I was fucked... by, my nineteen year old nephew.



Fierce
The Column

Remmington Ross
The Prince Of Pageantry

Greetings to all who are avid patrons, participants, sponsors and competitors in the underworld of gay pageantry. This is our first feature of **Fierce - The Column** in Clikque Magazine. We plan on highlighting the competitions across the country via invitations or e-mail and spotlighting participants with brief interviews. We'll explore stud, fish, newcomer, plus sized, Mr. and Miss (for female impersonators) who entertain in available exhibitions for their career or sponsorship.

First lets congratulate the winners of the first two preliminaries for the **Miss Clikque America Pageantry System: Paula Sinclair**, Miss Clikque Atlanta and 1st Alternate **Stasha Sanchez,** who will represent The City of Atlanta. Miss Clikque Houston, **Tiffany Brooks** and 1st Alternate **Tijuana Brooks** will represent The City of Houston. They along with future finers will meet in Atlanta on MLK Weekend for the first annual Miss Clikque America finals. Other preliminaries are in the very near future so get your package together. See Pages 78 and 79 fo more information. Anyone interested in participating or obtaining a preliminary, may contact him at the Clikque office.

With all vanity, lets also commend one of the most complete and non-biased pageantry system. The **Essence Pageantry System** is striving to achieve more national recognition. They successfully held six open pageants in 1999. The system makes available to all contestants all score sheets after each competition. This enables the entertainer to build their weak points and enhance their strengths.

The Essence Pageantry System president was very helpful in sharing the results of their reigning court and newly crowned. **Tre'von Ross** - Mr. Essence, **Julia Sterling** of Miami, Fl - Miss Essence Newcomer, Tijuana Brooks - Miss Essence, Raven St. James - Miss Essence Plus, **Li Lee** - Mr. Stud Essence, **Kisa Jackson** of Dallas, Tx. - Miss Lady Essence.

Congratulations goes out to **Master Chris Higgens** for his successful Liberty System contest held in July. Ashia was crowned along with Mr. Calvin St. Clare in Atlanta.

The **Black Universe System** is gearing up for their annual Mr. & Miss Black Universe contest during Halloween in Atlanta. We, the Fierce Column, will hate to see native Texan and Floridian **Raquel Lord** and **Monte St. James** depart, but the crown must live on. **Flawless Oz** of Oz Productions will present the last official preliminary in Texas, Mr. & Miss Black Houston Universe on October 17, 1999.

Gerald Stevens and the board of the **Black America System** will hold all three of their National Pageants in November **Yosmein Campbell Starr, Amanda Korday,** and **Majesty** will host the Mr., Miss & Miss Plus Black America.

On August 22, 1999 **Chevelle Brooks** name was entered into the Miss Texas USofA Hall of Fame. Being crowned Miss Texas USofA (not for small girls any longer) showed that this entertainer's consistency and determination really paid off. The contest was tough, but the best won. We would like to give special mention to the talents of **Katherine York** and **Jade DeSainte,** they did not miss a beat! National Pageant divas **Erica Andrews**, Miss USofA and **Tommie Ross** Miss Texas Continental were on hand as well.

Hats off goes out to **Miss Jasmine Bonet**. She recently won the title Miss Hotlanta '99. The competition was **Fierce** with Miss Clikque Atlanta's own, Paula Sinclair right on her heels. Jasmine is without a doubt, one of the most well rounded entertainers in the country.

Fierce would like to extend love and luck to the Ross namesake on her journey to **Miss Continental USA** in Chicago for Labor Day Weekend. Good luck also goes out to **Silk O'Hara Monroe** of Dallas, TX, **Sasha Valentino** of Chicago, IL and **Alexis Gabrielle Sherrington** of Jacksonville, Fl who will make their presence known in the windy city.

Bruce Chivers, Co-owner and pageant administrator for the Essence Pageantry System, is looking forward to the new millennium which will increase the financial rewards for upcoming winners.

Anyone who knows of any national pageants for lesbians please e-mail me or call me at 713-642-8630.

Well until next issue, same page, same overture, but different scores. BTW, don't forget about my Thirtieth Birthday Party to be held in Houston, September 18th, 1999 at Incognito the Club.

Peace and love, RR

Please Send All Inquiries, Suggestions, and Announcements to clikquem@aol.com. If your system was omitted, please inform us and we will correct the oversight.

TransForum

Monthly Column For Our Transgendered Community

Greetings everyone! Welcome to another episode. I am so pleased that many of you have been enjoying the column. I have been getting a lot of good reviews from the people in the community from both sides of the fence. It has become increasingly more important to me that the African-American Trans community's voice be made a permanent fixture in print media. We as a community need to be more vocal and visual in our pursuits for greater exposure within our own community.

Since this columns' debut, several people have been asking about my personal story; and how I got started doing the things I do within the community. Well believe me, it has not been an easy road, but I managed to travel it anyway, and lived to tell the story.

For those of you who don't know, I was actually born in Wurzberg, Germany in June of 1973 (to tell my age). My father was in the Army and my mother was a professional make-up artist (catch the hint). I have two siblings, an older sister, and a younger brother, which a lot of you know by the name of Damien Kelly. Yes Damien is my real brother. (People are going to ask that question anyway.) Well throughout my family's travels around the world I began to blossom... well mentally anyway. More and more I knew that I was not going to grow up to be "trade". Or anything closely resembling trade. My family and I eventually settled in Charleston, South Carolina where I graduated from high school and went off to college. Lucky for me I grew up in a family that is very accepting of diverse lifestyles. I had older cousins, uncles and family friends who came before me who were out of the closet. That fact made growing up a whole lot easier for me. I really never hid my obvious differences. I played with Barbie dolls (that were purchased for me) and even played dress up in my mothers clothes; many times with her permission. Looking back now I could only have been two things, a transsexual or Naomi Campbell. While in college I began experimenting with wearing women's clothing in public. Sure people pointed and stared, some even laughed, but they respected me because I seemed confident and self assured. All the drama didn't bother me, I had the support of my family and my friends, so other people's opinions about what I was doing really didn't matter. I knew drastic steps had to be taken if I was to stand by my decision. By the time I completed college and moved to Atlanta I was already doing shows and experimenting heavily in the world of Drag. It was then that I knew that living as a woman (or becoming one for that matter) was what I wanted to do. Unfortunately this process would take more than a couple of years to even come close to perfect. Although I'm still on the drafting table, I now live 24/7 as a woman, the bravest decision of my life.

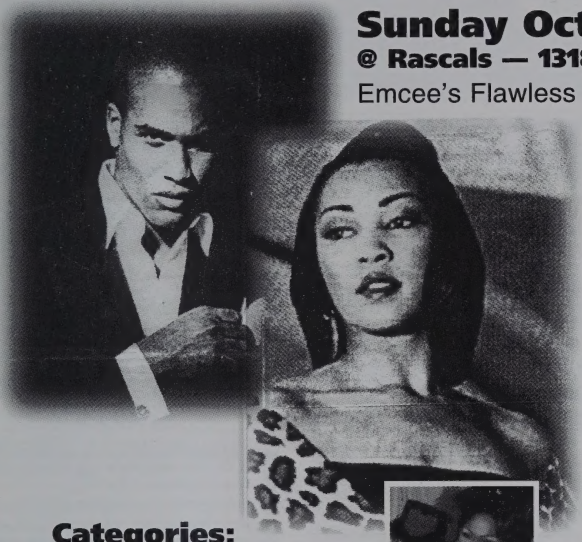
One of my first big hurdles was working for the Atlanta Public School System. I worked at Grady High School for two years. I applied for the position as female thinking I was "getting in". Well, needless to say, as a result of some speculation, I eventually had to tell the administration that I was close to undergoing my reassignment surgery just to be able to keep things fairly normal. After the initial issues died down, for example like what bathroom I'd be using, (female of course) or how should they address me (Damn, call me Dorian, what is so difficult about that.?) I had what one would call a "normal job". I actually loved it. I taught Drama, which was my major in college. From that point on I immediately began connecting with the students. We went on field trips, watched Broadway musicals on video ("A Chorus Line" was their favorite) and put on several productions for the school during the regular school day which had never been done before. I even acted as choreographer and assistant director for the schools annual Black History Month Celebration. Can you believe I even danced a solo to "Wade in the Water"? Well believe it, I did.

Dorian Kelley-Jahman

Oz Productions Presents

Mr. & Miss Black Houston Universe

The last official preliminary to the Mr. & Miss Black Universe Contest in Atlanta, GA.



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Question & Answer

Monte St. James & Raquel Lord

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I brought excitement, not to mention fashion sense to that campus everyday. One of the only draw backs was dealing with some of the parents, who obviously studied along side Rush Limbaugh, Jimmy Swaggert, Newt Gingrich and former President of the United States, George Bush and did not want their children exposed to the real world. Well legally I knew they would have a hard time suggesting my termination. I was great at my job and the students loved me. Besides, they would have had a war on their hands, and they knew it. I eventually began doing diversity trainings and cultural sensitivity lectures at the school. I also doubled as a counselor for the "sensitive" issues the other counselors chose not to deal with. Take for instance the time we had a transsexual student on campus. Who do you think handled that case? Well, needless to say those trainings and workshops started generating attention from several different groups in the in the community, especially the black gay community. The requests for my attendance and participation in these types of workshops also began to increase. The next thing you know I was offered a full-time job working in that particular field. That just goes to show you that when you go forward into the real world, after the lights come on and the sun comes up, you have to be ready for any opportunity.

No matter how you choose to live your life you must know how to present yourself. I believe I came out at a very fortunate time. I also believe that we chart our own course for either success or failure, and I fully intend on succeeding. Although we have a long journey ahead, the trans community is slowly making a positive impact. We must continue on this journey if a real difference is to be made. You see, life for us won't be no crystal stair, but we can learn to climb those steps just the same.

Until next time.

Clikque MAGAZINE the clikque connection

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LET'S HOOK UP GWM, 45, 5'11", 180 lbs, 5'11", looking for other GWM to get together with. Race unimportant. (Santa Anna) ☎21469

BOTTOM LOOKING FORA TOP If you're serious and looking for a good time, leave me a message. Call me soon, I really need a hot top. (San Francisco) ☎14537

SHOW ME SOMETHING NEW Mexican-German M, looking for a friend to have fun with. I'm kind of shy and need someone to show me the ropes. If you're interested in showing some new ways to have fun, give me a call. (San Diego) ☎18549

LET'S HOOK UP SBM, 6'0", enjoys working out. Seeking someone special. (Los Angeles) ☎10037

MANIC PASSIONATE Heavy-set Mexican-American M, mid 30s, moderately hairy, beard, easygoing, laid-back, responsible, good-hearted and a romantic. Looking for muscular-stocky Latino/WM, late 20s-late 40s, with a good sense of humor. Muscular legs and hairy a plus. (Los Angeles) ☎17427

JUST ASK If you want a submissive, feminine M, who will do anything your heart desires, call me. (Victorville) ☎10798

I LOVE LATINOS Young, nice-looking GBM, new to the area, seeking Latino/HM, 18-24, with a respectable attitude. No Games. (Torrance) ☎15504

FLORIDA

FUN AND MORE Very attractive, bottom, 5'11", 170 lbs, brown/blue, goatee, swimmers build, available for fun and recreation with top and versatile tops. (Gainesville) ☎17758

COOL SOUTH AFRICAN BROTHER BM, 32, 5'6", brown-skinned, hairy chest, looking to meet a very attractive top Guys, 23+, to hook up with. (Miami) ☎17779

BE MY GIRL 27-year-old BM, looking for TV/TS, who want to have a good time with me. Give me a call. (Jacksonville) ☎19173

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR 50-year-old GM, college-educated, looking for young, attractive, hairy WM, for possible romance. ☎14006

GEORGIA

IS THIS YOU? Jay would like to meet an out-going, sensitive, honest SM, who wants to have alot of fun. (Atlanta) ☎21956

LOW-KEY GUY Good-looking, in shape, 38-year-old GWM, 5'9", 165 lbs., stable, n/drugs, varied interests. Seeking SM for dating, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎21781

SEEKING SIMILAR BM Very masculine BM, 5'7", 150 lbs, attractive, muscular and looking for a muscular, masculine BM, for friendship and possibly more. (Atlanta) ☎21586

MUST BE DISCREET Looking for a straight-acting brother for friendship and possible relationship. If you're down with that, leave me a message. Peace. (Atlanta) ☎20181

ISO A LIGHT-SKINNED BROTHER Black/Filipino/Puerto Rican M, 21, 5'4", 130 lbs, blonde/brown, looking for a light-skinned brother, 21-28, who's tall and built with a gorgeous body. ☎19400

I'M ALL THAT Very romantic BM, 5'7", medium brown, likes movies, hiking and walks in the park. Looking for a BM, 18-30, to hook up with. No fats and no femmes. (Atlanta) ☎17447

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP Looking for a nice, fun-loving Guy who loves dining out, movies and long walks. If this is you, give me a call. (Decatur) ☎13272

GOOD TIMES 23-year-old BM, very masculine, works outs and looking for good times with exciting people. (Atlanta) ☎19510

NO GAME PLAYERS Married, down-to-earth BM, 5'10", slim, D/D free. Seeking nice, out-going BM, 26-35, no games. (Atlanta) ☎19884

I'LL BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND 29-year-old, passable BCD, 5'9", 160 lbs, pecan-tanned, clean, discreet, ISO a secure Gentleman who knows what he wants and who has a sensitive side. (Savannah) ☎18756

JUST HAVING FUN 39-year-old dark-skinned BM, looking for Guys, around my age, to hang out and have fun with. (Georgia) ☎17612

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT Straight-acting, Married WM, 30s, 6'1", 210 lbs, long brown hair, hairy chest, seeking a passive BiM, who likes X-rated videos and exploring. (Atlanta) ☎17748

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 lbs, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth Latino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick it with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, leave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

TO RESPOND TO ADS...

...Browse Or Retrieve Messages, Call The 900 or 800 Numbers Below

1-900-884-CLIK • **1-800-290-4346**

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Only $1.99 per minute. You Must Be 18+ • Customer Service: 612-373-9783

the clikque connection

IUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, '10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, ood-looking, dominant BM who knows what he ants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

I"S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 s, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth atino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, ave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

RE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, ooking for someone who likes movies, plays, din- g out and having a good time. If you have a good ense of humor and you know what you want out f life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

NEED IT REAL BAD Bi-curious BM, looking for omeone to teach what this is like. Can you teach e? (Savannah) ☎20427

KIN TO SKIN CONTACT Straight-acting Married l, 6'1", 200 lbs, long brown/blue, seeking slender, ell-endowed BiM, who likes giving and receiving, ral and anal. Discretion expected and assured. tace unimportant. (Atlanta) ☎19150

ILLINOIS

NEED A HUG? Tall, masculine WM, seeking tall, nasculine BM, with an insatiable desire to hug and e hugged. (Chicago) %21737

LOOKS UNIMPORTANT Smooth, well-endowed SWM, 27, 180 lbs, 5'10", black/blue, likes sports, novies, dining gout, going out and having fun. ooking for a Latino/WM, 20-30, for friendship or ossible long-term relationship. Nonsmoker and ocial drinker referred. (Chicago) ☎20105

LOVE DRESSING UP Very hot, sexy CD in Chicago, looking for someone to play with and ave fun with in the area. Leave me a message, I romise I'll call you back. (Chicago) ☎13469

TOP SEEKS BOTTOMS Dominant WM, 45, well-endowed, attractive, looking for smooth, submissive bottoms. Race unimportant. ☎13324

MICHIGAN

SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT? Nice-looking BM, looking for a good-looking BM, 22-42, 5'8"-6', to hang out with and possibly start a relationship. Let's get together and get to know each other. (Detroit) ☎11266

I'LL DO ANYTHING Good-looking BM looking for a hardcore Man who likes to do anything. If you're interested, call me up and we'll get together. (Detroit) ☎19650

NEW YORK

I LIKE LOTS OF THINGS 37-year-old M, really into oral and likes lots of things. Looking for an older Guy, 40-55, who would be interested in getting together with me. (New York) ☎19264

EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE Very active, good-natured, retired, daddy type, who wants to enjoy the rest of his life with a couple of young Guys. Must be W/H, 20s, 6'+, good-looking, reliable, health conscious, into working out and have six pack abs. (New York) ☎17556

TENNESSEE

BORING GUY? 26-year-old BM, 5'11", 184 lbs., dredlocks, brown eyes, enjoys cooking, reading, running, cleaning, employed, dogs. If interested, leave a message. (Memphis) ☎21869

LET'S CHILL Sexy, brown-skinned BM, 6'1", 150 lbs. Seeking SM, for friendship, possibly more. (Memphis) ☎10531

JUST FUN 35-year-old WM, brown/blue, tanned, toned and looking to meet a BM, 21-35, in the Memphis area, for a no strings, hot, sexual relationship. (Memphis) ☎21822

TEXAS

NOT A SEX AD! 42-year-old GBM, 5'11", average-looking big Guy with a great personality, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times. Seeking SM sincere, genuine to form a monogamous relationship. No games (Dallas) ☎21673

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

SKIN TIGHT LEVIS Professional swimmer, 5'8", 140 lbs, tanned, muscular, shaved, looking for a down-to-earth Guy, who likes swimming, working out, music, having fun and a lot of body contact. (Dallas) ☎21475

IS THAT YOU? Young BM, 5'8", heavy -set, brown/brown, looking for that special someone to share life with. (Houston) ☎19892

TRYING TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE BM, 21, 5'9", 160 lbs, smooth, slender build, very attractive, masculine and outgoing, looking for some cool people to hang with. Not really looking for a sexual relationship, right now, just friendship. ☎19913

BI GUY PREFERRED BM, 25, 5'5", 140 lbs, nice body, looking for a mature BIM, 30-50. No fats and no femmes. (Houston) ☎12765

POSSIBLITIES Bottom GHM, 37, smoker, drinker who loves to please his partner. Looking for a top W/HM. If you would love to start a new friendship with the possibility of a long-term relationship. ☎21406

HIT ME UP! 21-year-old BM, 5'9", 145 lbs, attractive, sexy and toned. Seeking a masculine, muscular, attractive Latino/BM who want to get with me. ☎20366

Clikque Connection Women Seeking Women

CALIFORNIA

LET'S HANG OUT GBF, 36, 5'7", 155 lbs., enjoys reading, walks, outdoors. Seeking SF who can give heir time, must like to have fun, friends first. (Los Angeles) ☎22011

NEW TO THE AREA African-American Female, 33, two children. Seeking SF, 40+, preferably White, no ex-cons, 12-steppers, smokers, drug-ies, heavy drinkers or hang ups, must be positive and like children. (Los Angeles) ☎21948

'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU 37-year-old, feminine F, 5'3", brown/brown, Looking for a very open-minded, down-to-earth H/AF who like dining out, playing pool, dancing, movies, bowling and having a good time. All calls returned. ☎20711

ELECTIVE FEMME Very sensitive, spiritual African-American Woman, 40-ish, 5'9", vegetarian, loves film, drama, jazz, visual arts, the environment, walks by the ocean and nature. Looking for a vegetarian, feminine, spiritual, artistic Woman of color, who's independent and has similar interests. ☎18670

S THIS YOU? Then call this sexy, assertive Femme, stable, loving, compassionate, drug-free, healthy, n/s, seeking sensitive Butch Woman, to share life with me, must love animals, must be sensitive, drug-free. (San Diego) ☎21620

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED 36-year-old PF, 5'6", 135 lbs, attractive, athletic, likes going out, walking, movies and romantic evenings at home. Seeking the same in a compatible Woman. If you're interested, give me a call. (Los Angeles) ☎19793

GEORGIA

BE REAL 30-year-old GBF seeking a real friend 25-35, great sense of humor, out-going, honest, for friendship, possible relationship. (Jonesboro) ☎21686

CALL ME SBF, enjoys movies, the beach, outings and watching tv. Looking for someone who's friendly, fun, open-minded and into travel. If you're looking for friendship and fun times, then call me. ☎11588

TURN ME ON Attractive, attached BiWF, 25, 5'2", 152 lbs, reddish-brown, looking for another Woman, 18-30, in the area to get together and explore new experiences. (Norcross) ☎19604

FEMALE BONDING 37-year-old Lesbian, looking for a proud, sincere, fit, feminine Lady who loves life, travel and spending time with someone special. I look forward to hearing from you. (Atlanta) ☎15429

ILLINOIS

ENJOY THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE? Affectionate, feminine, SBGF 23, 5'7", shapely but full-figured. Seeking SGF who enjoys the finer things in life. (Chicago) ☎21791

TENNESSEE

FRIENDSHIP FIRST SBF, looking for another BF to explore another side of life. This is my first time, so please be gentle. (Memphis) ☎14363

MY FAVORITE THINGS 27-year-old, feminine GBF, looking for GF for long walks, midnight talks and romantic evenings under the sunset. (Memphis) ☎21155

TEXAS

LICKABLE BiBF, 5'6", 140lbs, looking for a F to talk to and have a relationship with. (Houston) ☎20150

VIRGINIA

HELLO NURSE! 27-year-old BF, with three children, looking for a nice Lady who likes dining out, reading and having a nice time, for friendship and possible relationship. ☎16652

YOUR PREMIER GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below.

ATLANTA

CLUB FUSION, 550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR, W. Peachtree & 15th St., Midtown Atlanta, 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love wormen; 10pm-4am

LORETTA'S, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, 404-874-8125. Doors open 7 days

THE OTHERSIDE, 1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE, 91 Broad Street, Atlanta, GA 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

WAREHOUSE/TRAXX, 306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422 Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE

THE PARADOX 1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays

BIRMINGHAM

LATROYS, LAMASTIC 316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE

SCORPIO LOUNGE2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

CLEVELAND

DOMINOS, 612 Prospect Ave., 216-771-9020.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS 2909 Detroit Av., 216-574-2203. Black on Saturdays

CHICAGO

GENERATOR, 306 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60661, 312-243-8889.

GENTRY ON HALSTED, 3320 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

JEFFREY PUB, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago 60649, 773-363-8555.

RAILS, 1675 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, Il 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT, 1529 W. Armitage

DALLAS

METRO, 2204 Elm St., Dallas 75201, 214-742-2101.

CLUB ENVY, 216 N. Crowdus, Dallas , 214-987-4059.

DETROIT

CONTINENTAL 156 Monroe

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB, 12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK, 711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

ZIPPERS, 6221 E. Davison, 313-892-8120

DURHAM, NC

J&L's, 2627 Hillsboro Road, 919-286-5032

GREENVILLE, SC

NEW ATTITUDE, 706 W. Washington St., 864-233-1387

HOUSTON

INCOGNITO, 2524 McKinney St., Houston 77003, 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS, 1318 Westheimer, 77006. 713-942-CLUB. Open Thursday - Sunday from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS, 200 N. Mills St., Downtown Jackson, Ms. 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

JACKSONVILLE

THIRD DIMENSION, 711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

LOS ANGELES

BOYTRADE-EL REY, 5525 Wilshire Blvd.

CATCH ONE, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., 323-737-1159. Blackest on Saturdays

MEMPHIS

N-COGNITO, 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MIAMI/FT. LAUD.

CLUB OBSESSIONS 7900 NE First Ave.,

COPA NIGHTCLUB, 2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

SUGAR'S, 17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

NASHVILLE

THE CONNECTION, 901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

THE CHUTE COMPLEX, 2535 Franklin Road, 615-297-4571 Blackest on Wednesdays

THE GASLITE, 167 1/2 8th Ave.,615-254-1278

THE JUNGLE, 306 4th Ave. South, 615-256-9411

NEW YORK

CLIT CLUB, 432 W. 14th St., New York 10014, 212-406-1114. Fridays only Women.

CLUB HOUSE, 215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays

ESQUALITA, 301 West 39th St., NY, NY Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

KELLERS, 384 West St., New York 10014, 212-243-1907.

MANHATTAN MONSTER, 80 Grove St., New York 10014, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT, 1 Front St., Brooklyn 11201, 718-852-0139.

THE OCTAGON, 555 W. 33rd St., New York 10001, 212-947-0400.

THE WAREHOUSE, 141 E. 140th St., Bronx, NY. 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

NEWARK, NJ

MURPHY'S, 59 Edison St., 201-622-9176

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT, 120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32805, 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday.

CLUB QUEST, 745 Bennett Road, Orlando, Fl 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday,, Friday and Saturday

SOUTHERN NIGHTS, 375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS, 536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmonds African-American Club of True Diversity.

RUMOURS II, 1008 North Blvd.,804-358-3838

SAN FRANCISCO

THE ENDUP 401 6th St. 415-357-0827. Vlackest Sunday afternoon.

TALLAHASSEE

CLUB PARK AVENUE, 115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

WASHINGTON DC

BACHELOR'S MILL, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-1931.

CLUB DIVERSITE, 1526 14th St. N.W., Washington, DC 202-387-2338.

DELTA ELITE, 3734 10th St., N.E., Washington 20017, 202-529-0626. Gay on Friday and Saturday.

EDGE, 56 L St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

MR. P'S, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-9009.

Please inform us of any additions, deletions or modifications to this list

404-486-9655

Miss Georgia National At Large

Wednesday
Sept. 15th

Backstreet Atlanta
9PM Sharp
Over $1,500 in cash
& prizes

Official Preliminary to
Miss national at Large
Nov. 10-12

Special Guest

Clarissa Cavalier

Miss National at Large 1998/99

Featuring

- **Dana Jacobs** — *Miss Ga. Natn'l at Lg '98*
- **Shawnna Brooks** — *Miss National 1999-2000*
- **Niesha Dupee** — *Miss Natn'l at Lg '97/98*
- **Ashley Kruiz** — *Miss National 1998-1999*
- **Sierrah Foxx** — *Miss Natn'l at Lg '97*
- **Ce'zanne** — *Miss National 1997-1998*
- **Mia Landon** — *Miss Ga. Natn'l 1999*
- **Tina Devore** — *Official Emcee*

ategories / Fees

rsonal Interview • Creative Presentation (Show us your colors) •
lent • Evening Gown • $100 Before 9/13/99 & $125 Day of

r Contestant Information Contact Charles Brown & Dennis
agan 678-289-8017 or NPS @ 404-874-7714

ther Prelims

ss Central Florida at Large 1999 — Sunday, Sept 12 • Parliament House, Orlando • 9PM
nnessee National at Large 1999 — Sunday, Sept 26 • Electric Ballroom, knoxville • 10PM
ntact NPS for Contestant Information

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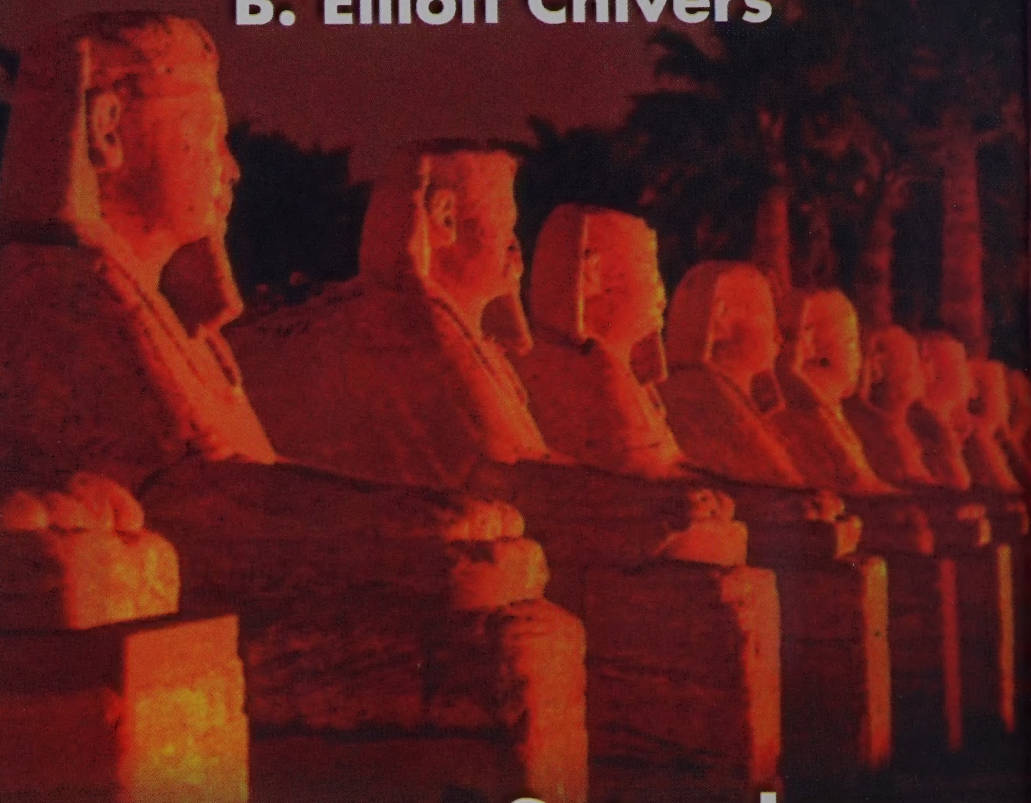

INCOGNITO
THE CLUB

Saturday, October 16th 11PM Sharp

2524 McKinney @ Live Oak, Houston, Texas

Featuring: Montel Alexander ❖ Allegra ❖ Big Yo ❖ Chevelle Brooks ❖ Tijuana Brooks ❖ Chanel ❖ Diamond Delante Frantz ❖ Ashley Iman ❖ Raven St. James ❖ Tevin St. James ❖ Kisa ❖ Cookie LaCook ❖ Li Lee ❖ Shonice Love ❖ Montego ❖ Flawless Oz ❖ Porsha Paris ❖ Freda Payne ❖ Victoria Prince ❖ Randé Rochelle ❖ Remmington Ross ❖ Tommie Ross ❖ Black Velvet ❖

Buffet ❖ For Reserved Seats & Tables Call 713-434-0100

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A Black & Gold Birthday Celebration for

Remmington Ross "The Prince of Pageantry"

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Juston Brooks
Jacobie Ross
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Miss Black America
Tijuana Brooks
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Diamond Delante Frantz
Dynasty Escarda Ross
Allur Wellington
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Angelica Sanchez
Miss Southern St. Continental Plus
Raven St. james
Allegra
Leah Halston
Flawless Oz
Claudia Foster

Emcee — Cookie LaCook **Introducing the Legendary *Jill Sanders***

Hors d'Oeuves will be served • Portions of proceeds to benefit "Kid Care"

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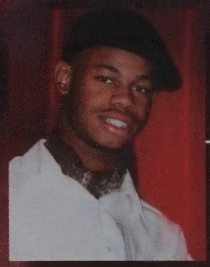
Spend The Night With

The New Little Rascals Untouchables



Monday
Sept. 20th

Ashley Iman
Tyra Brooks
Youlanda Adams
Jada Brooks

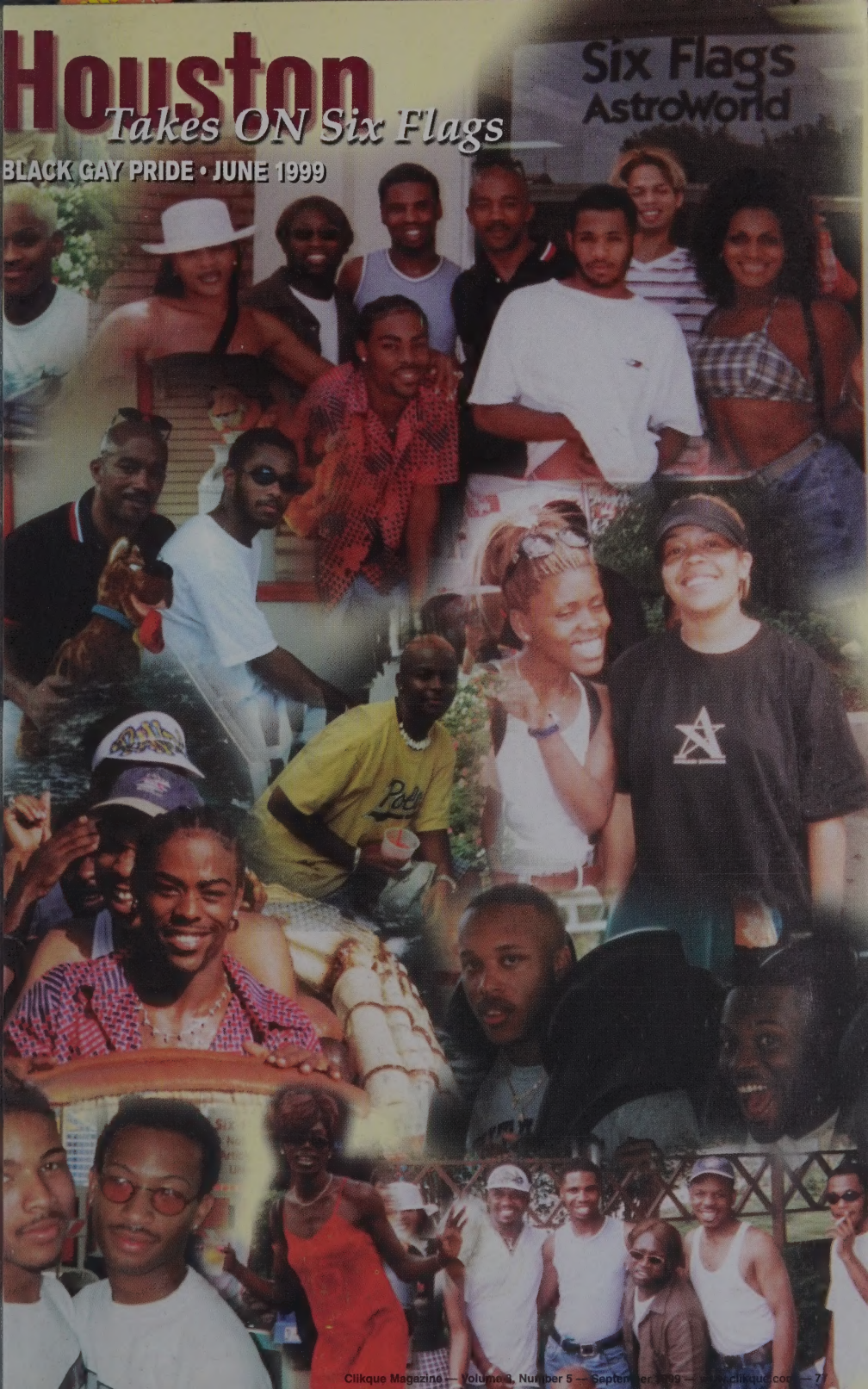
RASCALS

Rascals Nightclub
1318 Westheimer • Houston, Texas
713-942-CLUB • 877-210-CLUB

Sadarious Qua
Trevion Ross
Kendarius Oz
Tevin St. James

Houston
Takes ON Six Flags

BLACK GAY PRIDE • JUNE 1999



Categories

It is with a great sense of pride and pleasure that we here at Clikque Magazine, offer you a national pageant with a difference. Miss Clikque America. This pageant promises to elevate the art of female impersonation and to serve as a benchmark with its dedication to community service, while maintaining high standards of style, grace and sophistication. Miss Clikque besides being talented and smart, will make a difference in her community. She will use her title to serve others and assist in leaving an indelible mark on the people with whom she comes in contact.

Presentation — Contestants will choose their own attire in Blue to present themselves to the judges.

Talent — Anything a contestant considers talent will be given fair consideration. We do not want anyone to think that we are looking for something specific. Painting on the stage for 7mins is as much talent as doing a number. Or live poetry or singing is very much talent as is tumbling or ballet dancing or dramatic interpretation. Just bring it with precision and be point.

Evening gown — This is a formal wear category and should show off the highest in class and sophistication.

Interview — Because we are a literary magazine we expect our title holders to be able to speak and represent Clikque. Contestants will be expected to to have a platform (charity/service organization) and say what they admire most about Clikque. Or what improvements they would like to see made at Clikque. Interview should be 5 minutes and conducted OFF stage in business attire.

Miss Clikque America

PAGEANTRY SYSTEM

Miss Clikque Houston
Miss Clikque Houston — Tiffany Brooks
Tijuanna Brooks 1st Atl.

Miss Clikque Atlanta
Miss Clikque Atlanta — Paula Sinclair
Stasha Sanchez 1st Atl.

Miss Clikque New Orleans
Sept. 24th, 1999
Montreal Coleman — 504-943-5577

Miss Clikque Memphis
Nov. 7th, 1999
Terryl Buckner — 901-345-8031

Miss Clikque Birmingham
November 1999
Steven Daffin (Latroys) — 205-951-2163

Miss Clikque Jackson
November 1999
DeDe Labelle (CCL) — 601-713-1551

Miss Clikque Dallas
December 5th, 1999
Flawless Oz — 713-451-4433

Miss Clikque Washington, DC
Dec. 5th, 1999
Theresa Jackson — 202-543-4258

Miss Clikque Miami
Dec. 6th, 1999
Danyel Green — 954-484-7318

Miss Clikque Chicago *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque Detroit *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque Jacksonville *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque New York City *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque Philadelphia *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque Richmond *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque America
Pageantry System

HEADQUARTERS:
931 Monroe Drive — Ste. 102-279,
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
404-486-9655
email: clikquem@aol.com
Web: www.clikque.com

HALLOWEEN 1999

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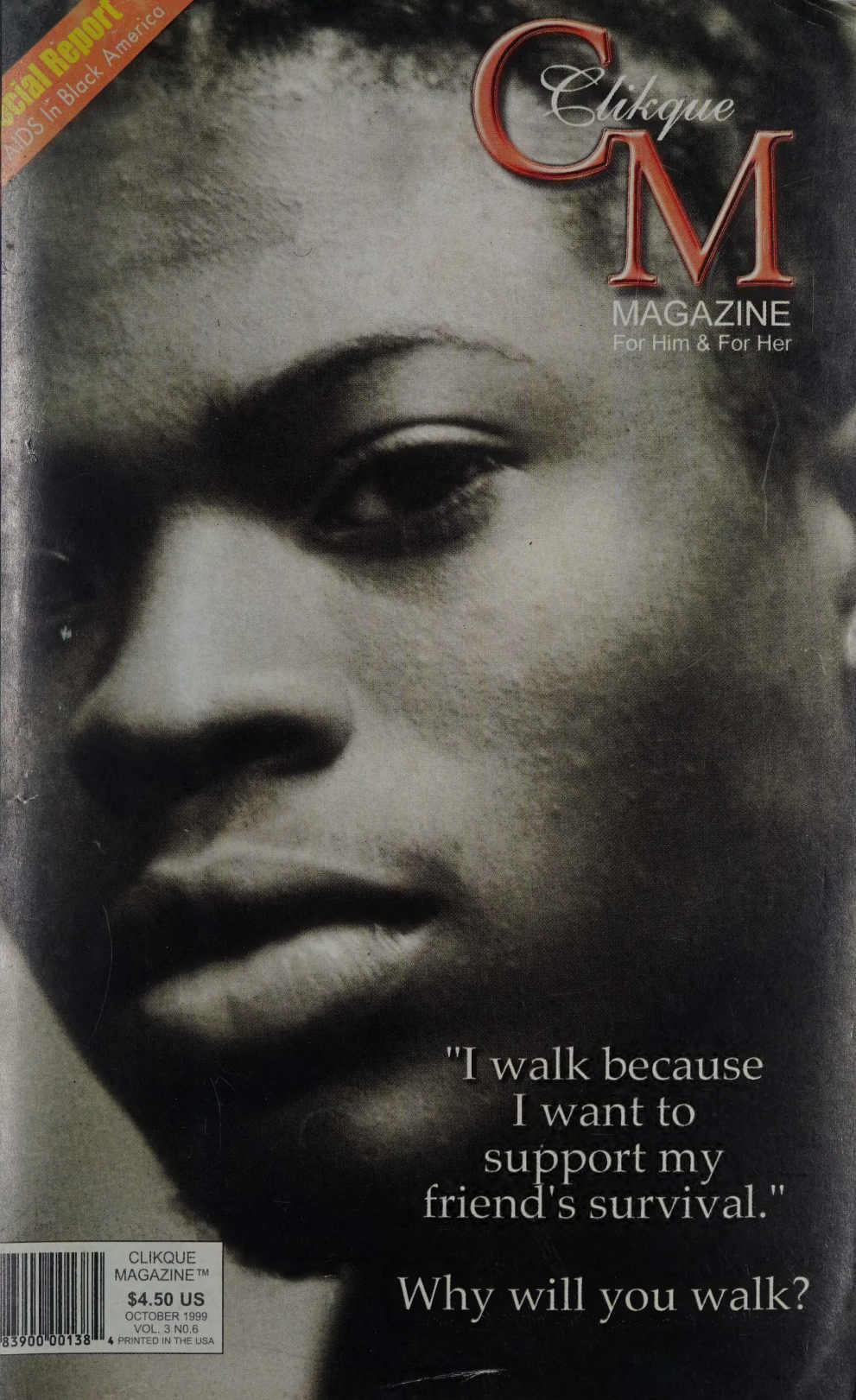
Special Report
AIDS In Black America
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MAGAZINE
For Him & For Her
"I walk because
I want to
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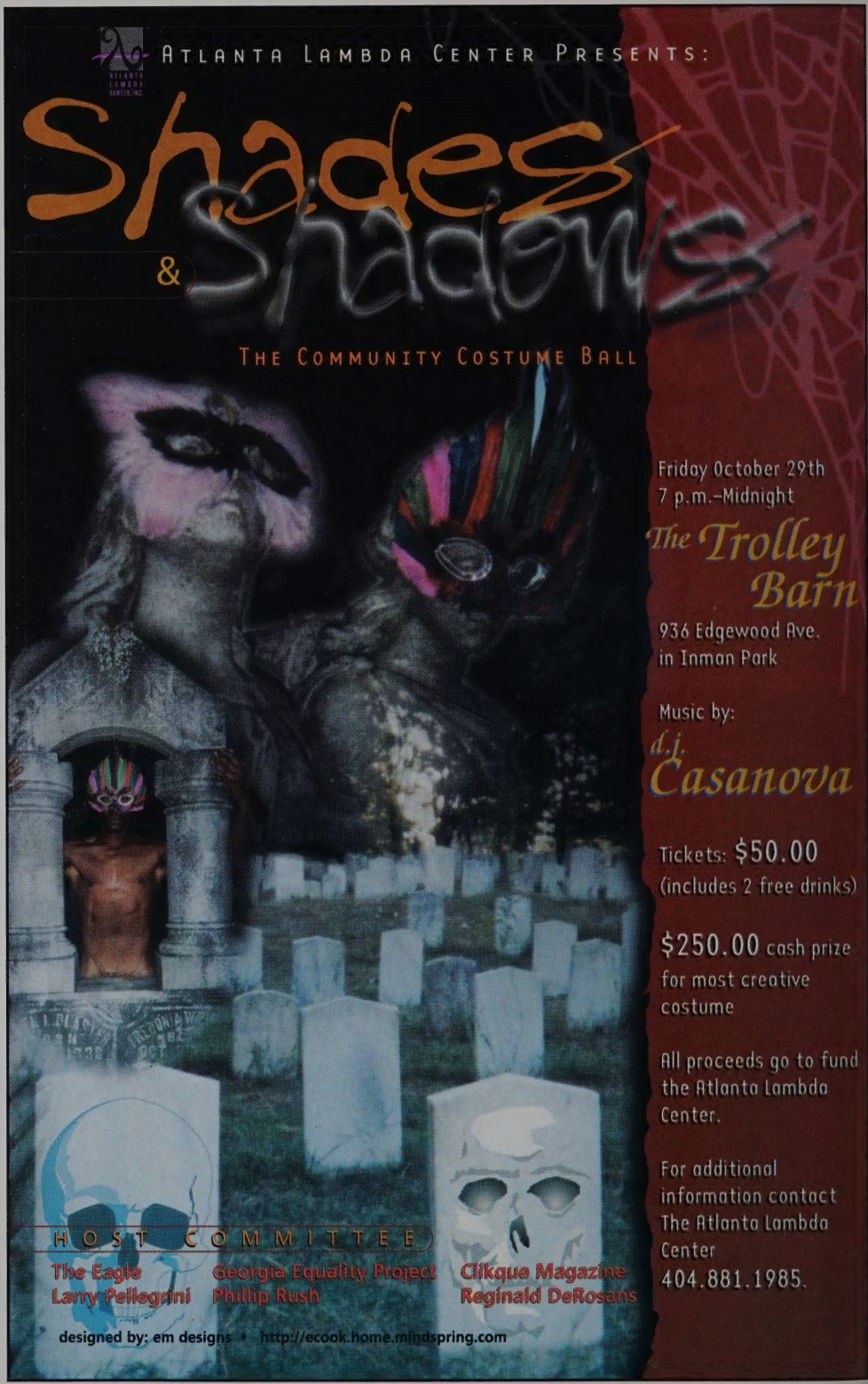
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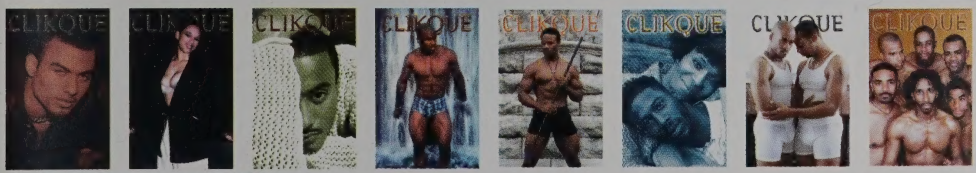

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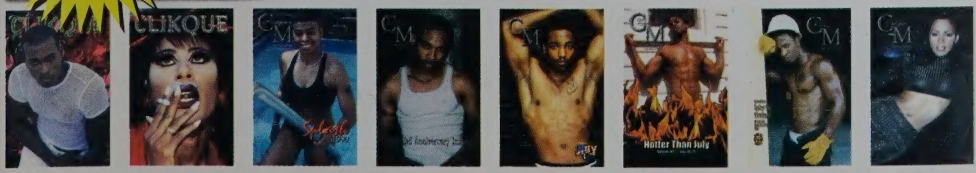

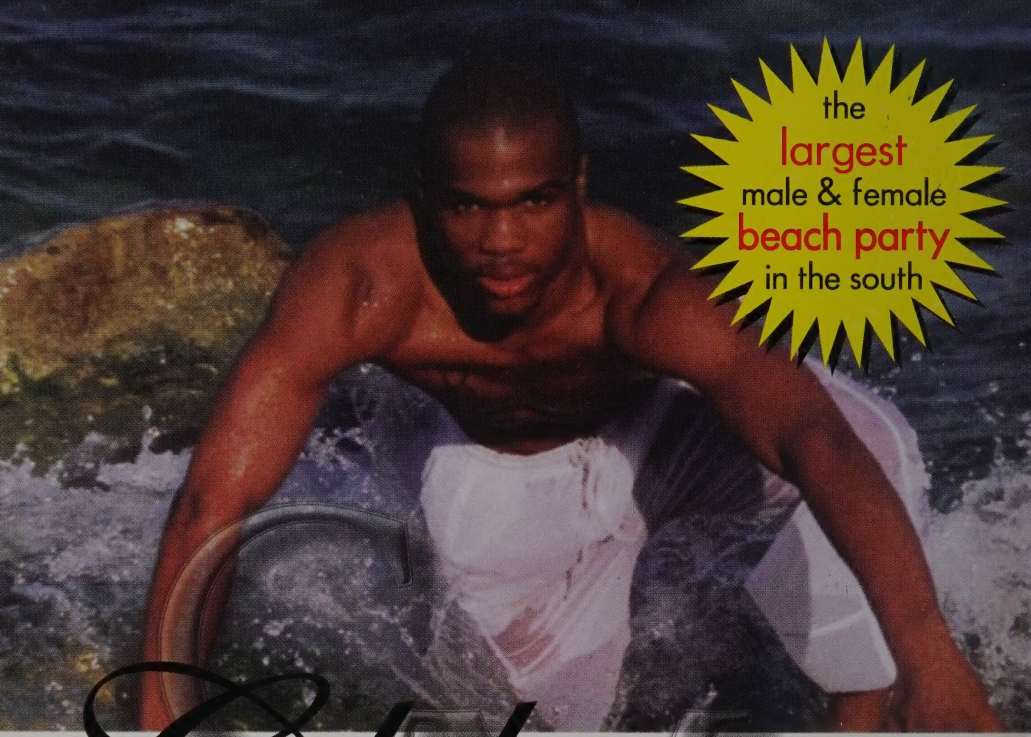

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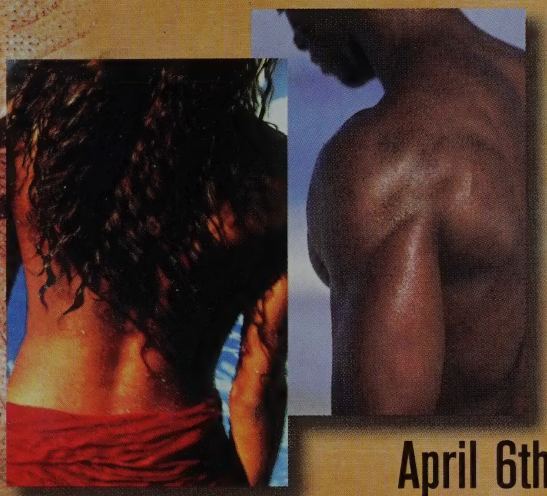

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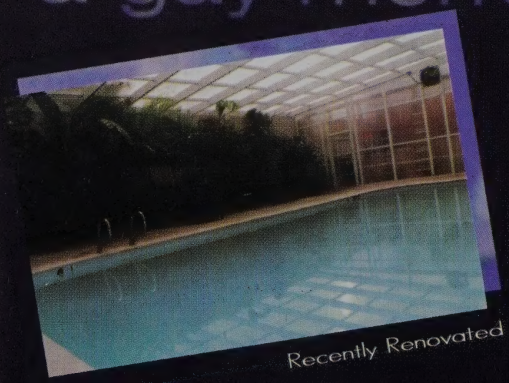

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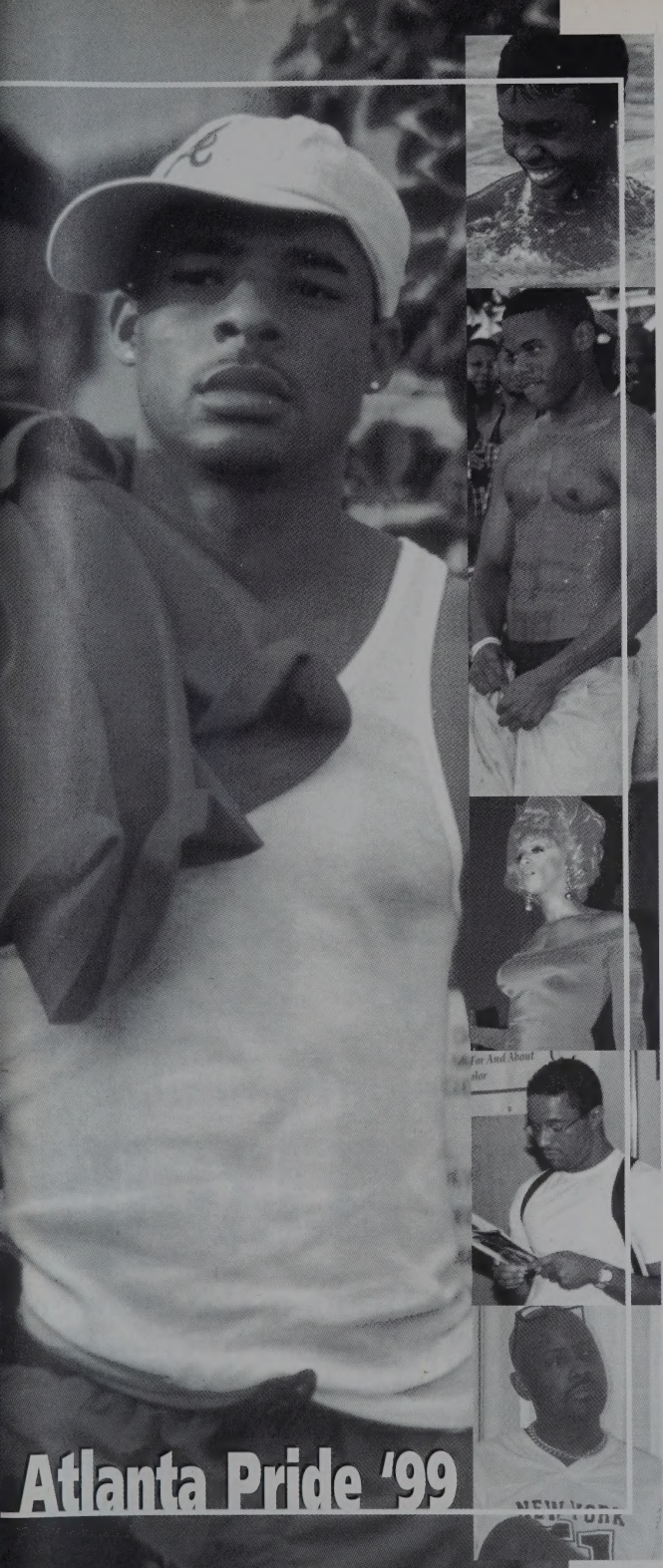

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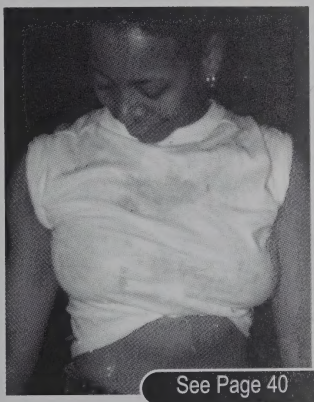

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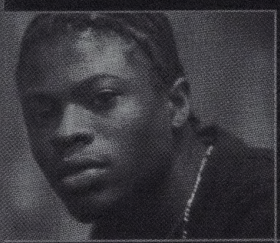
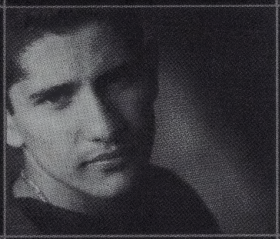
SUNDAY OCTOBER 17

I walk because...



"I promised my brother I would continue fighting until the end."

"I want to support my friend's survival."



"I don't care who's getting AIDS, just that so many still are."

"AIDS is still a crisis. Period."

"The new drugs are not 'miracles' for everybody."

"As a parent, I have to."

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Hello friends. By now, I am sure that you've noticed a sharp departure from our typical Clikque covers. Likewise, you will also discover that the content in this particular issue isn't, for the most part, your normal reading material either.

This month, we have embarked upon addressing a situation that has raged out of control in our African American communities: The dramatic increase in HIV & AIDS diagnoses over the past few years.

After reading this issue, you will be amazed and alarmed by the facts that we have presented. Facts from the Center For Disease Control (CDC), which alerts us that African Americans are dying from AIDS at a rate ten (10) times that of White Americans in this country. That, my friends, is something worth taking a good look at.

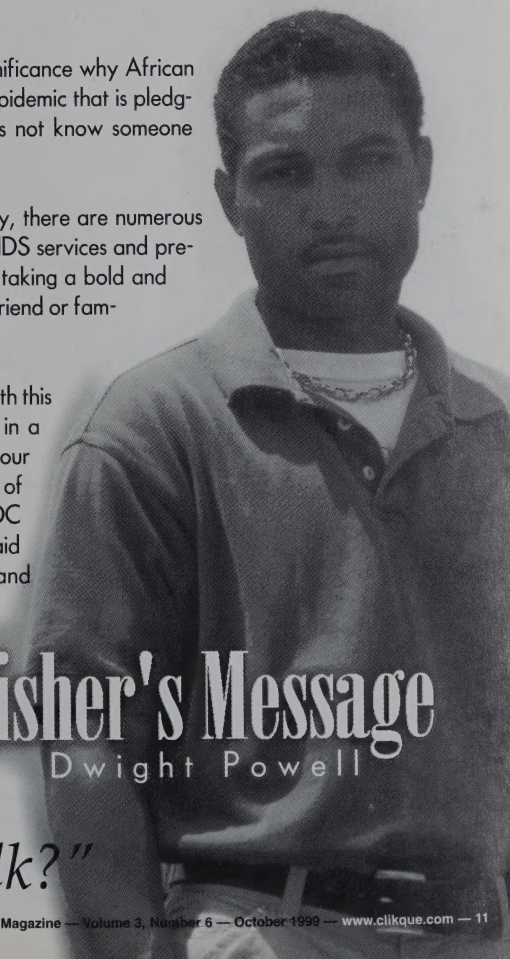
What must we do to correct this situation. Well for one, get up of our butts and be counted. We are still passively sitting in the passenger seat being driven to battles by people that don't even look like us. Remarkably, when we get to the battle grounds, we don't get out of the car. Why must we continue to have others fight our battles for us. Yes my friends a BATTLE. That is exactly what we are in, and when you're done with this magazine, I'm sure that you will agree with me.

It's not just the sissy, fag, dyke, homo, (whatever they call us) getting sick anymore. It's our mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, youth, and the young children that are being affected in astronomical proportions. Black women accounts for 67% of all new cases in this country. Are you awake yet? Well you should be!

I don't mean to preach, but merely to stress the significance why African Americans need to take the lead in combating this epidemic that is pledging us. There is probably not one of you that does not know someone dying or that has died due to AIDS complications

Throughout the year, in various parts of the country, there are numerous marathons/walk fundraisers benefiting local HIV/AIDS services and prevention providers. I challenge you be proactive by taking a bold and strong stand for yourself. Better yet, represent that friend or family member no longer with you because of AIDS.

While I acknowledge that a better way of dealing with this situation is via behavior modifications, taking part in a marathon shows the nation that we are willing to do our part in attacking this demon that has taken so many of our loved ones. Show the government and the CDC that you demand adequate funding to better aid affected individuals sustain a more dignified and humane existence.



Publisher's Message

Dwight Powell

"I will walk because I can!"

"Why will you walk?"

Clikque MAGAZINE

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email: Clikquem@aol.com

PUBLISHER / EDITOR
Dwight Powell

COPY EDITOR
Darryl! L.C. Moch

OFFICE MANAGER /
COVER COORDINATOR
Nestor Zapata

ART DIRECTOR / GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dwight Powell

HIV / AIDS EDITORIALS
Don Sneed - Dallas, Tx.

MONTHLY COMMENTARY
Craig Washington - Atlanta, Ga.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Anthony Rucker - Gainesville, Fl.

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS
Scott Bogan - Atlanta, Ga.
Todd Edwards - Austin, Tx.

STAFF WRITERS
Parker Bridges- Atlanta, Ga.
Danny Chislom - Atlanta, Ga.
Queshan Hayes - Atlanta, Ga.
Curdell "Doc" Hoskins Jr. - Atlanta, Ga.
Khalid Idawu - Atlanta, Ga.
Lee Jones - Louisville, Ky.
Dorian Kelley-Jahman - Atlanta, Ga.
Darryl! L.C. Moch- Atlanta, Ga.
Remmington Ross- Houston, Tx.
Victor J. Stewart- Atlanta, Ga.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Shurron Farmer- Washington, DC
Robert Raglin II- Spring, Tx.
Gregory Victorian- Chicago, IL
Andre Toney- Compton, Ca.
Eric Ezekiel- Lithonia, Ga.
Matthew Blathers- Atlanta, Ga.
Gena Alexander- Madison Heights, MI
Paris France- Atlanta, Ga.
M. Ari C.- Berkeley, Ca.
Kenny Omni- Chicago, IL
M. N.- Atlanta, Ga.
Jean Pierre Campbell
Amado Musa Lanai
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Dwight Powell, Nestor Zapata
CARTOONIST
Michael Christopher
OWNER / PUBLISHER Dwight Powell
CO-OWNER Nestor Zapata
MARKETING Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc
EVENTS COORDINATOR Victor J. Stewart
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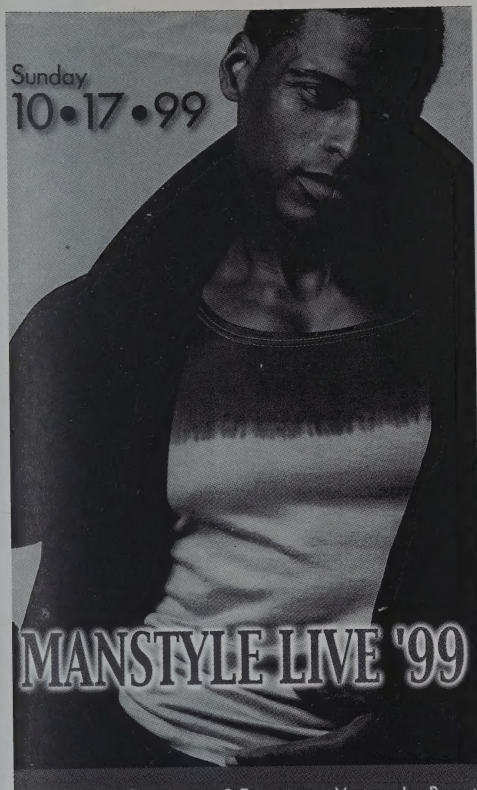

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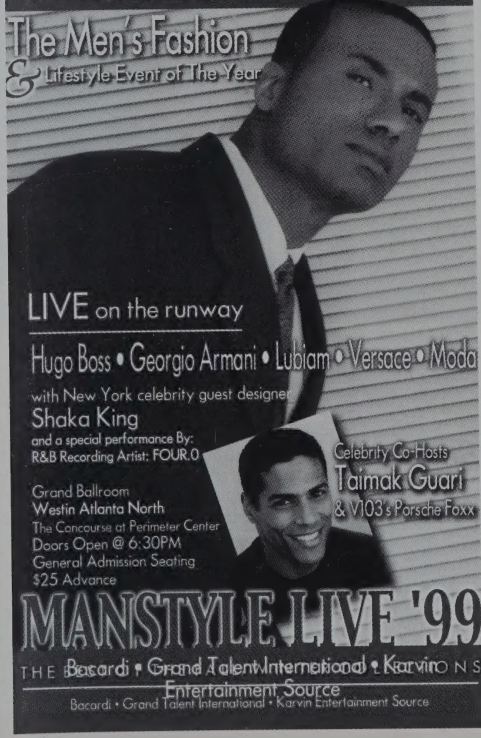
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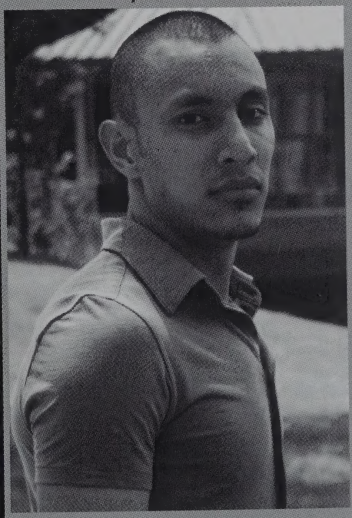

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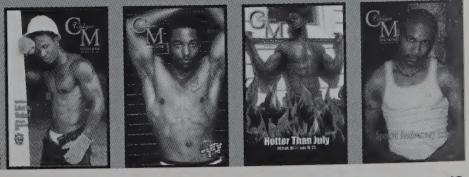

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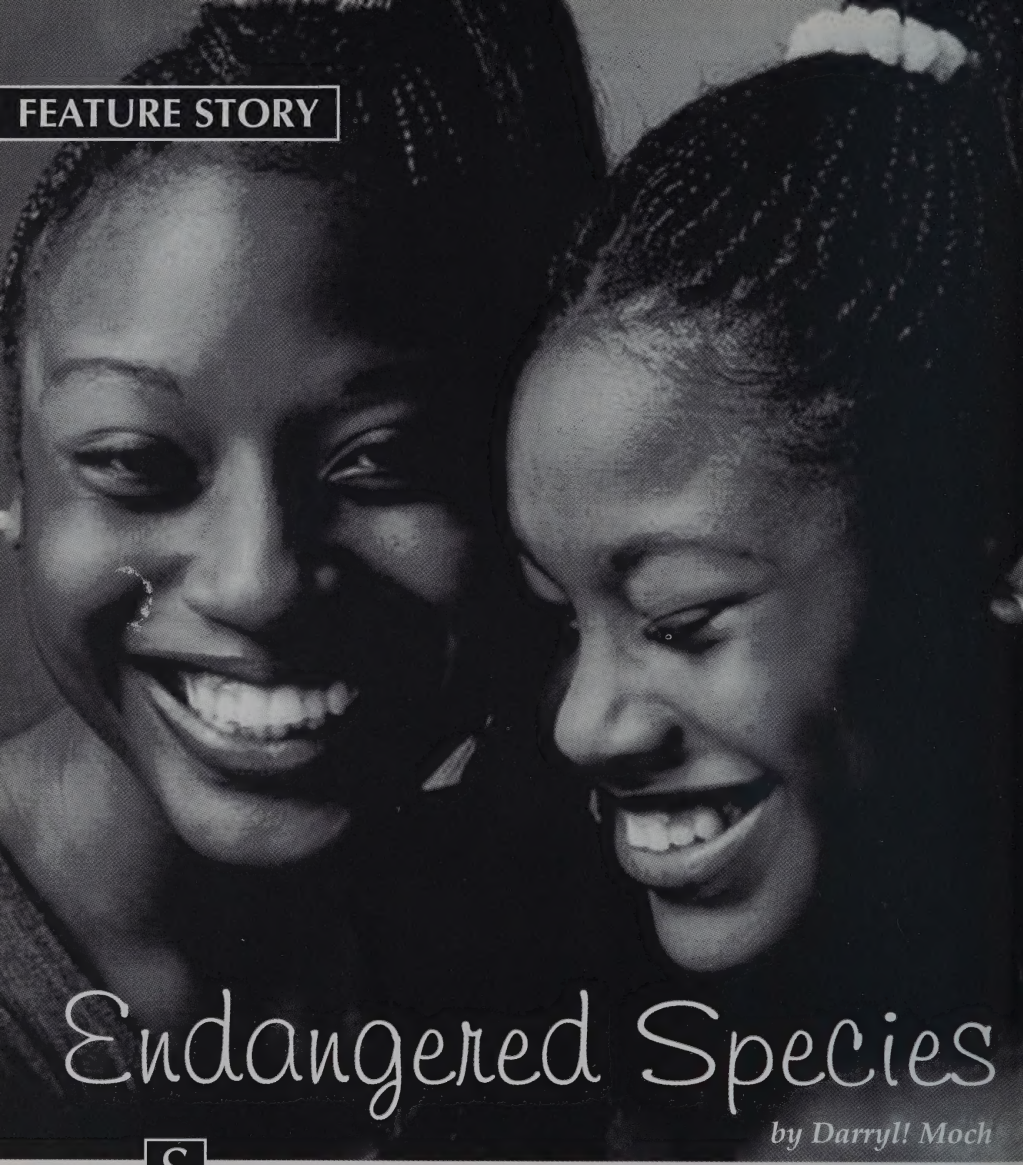

Endangered Species

by Darryl! Moch

Shall we fight for our lives or just drift into the sea of death and despair? Will you be content to huddle in the hull of the boat contemplating starting the engine, or using oars on the deck, or getting into the lifeboat already provided for you? We, as a nation of people, can choose to forge our own path or we can choose to look at the elements of safety, self-preservation and power over our situation and use them to our advantage or we can let them stay potent but useless.

This is like the fight against HIV/AIDS, especially for women. The opportunity exists that we can look at the realities if the situation and choose the mechanisms that bring life and safety or we can choose to ignore them and waste away in a sea of disease and deception. By now we are well aware of how HIV is transmitted and the difference between HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and AIDS (Acquired immunodeficiency Syndrome). HIV is transmitted through Blood, Semen, Vaginal Secretions, and Breast Milk. HIV is the infection that causes AIDS and AIDS is a result of infection with the virus known as HIV (American Red Cross). HIV causes AIDS and there is no cure for HIV and most people who contract HIV will eventually develop AIDS. People die from conditions associated with AIDS as a result of HIV infection. There is NO cure. There IS NO cure. THERE IS NO CURE!

African American's continue to see a dramatic rise in HIV infections, and the problems is on the rise not only among African American men who have sex with men (MSMs), but surprisingly (to some), at an even more alarming rate, also among the African American women who love them. Let's consider some more facts as we know them and then consider the reasons why.

With the facts staring us boldly in the face and challenging us to make a difference in our own lives we cannot sit around and pretend that the virus and disease do not penetrate to every sphere of our existence. We cannot sit idly by and expect that the great generosity of the government or society will ensure that we are safe or cured. The major movement of the HIV/AIDS community is to work towards further prevention with an emphasis on the manageability of the virus and its effects on persons living with it. **However, for the vast majority of African Americans, especially women, the epidemic continues to ravage and claim lives with astonishing ease. WHY? WHY? WHY?**

Have we not been listening to the messages of the last almost two decades? Have we pretended that as long as we were involved in heterosexual sex we were safe, regardless of the knowledge that men are commonly having sex with each other and then going home to wives, girlfriends, and regular-non committal sex partners? Have we forgotten that a large number of our brothers spend a portion of their lives in some form of incarceration and that sexual appetites have and are being satisfied in the secret caverns of confinement?

We know and understand that these same men/boys return to the sanctity of "their" women proving their manhood by the number of babies and sex partners they can brag about. Or do we not believe that gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual men and women often choose sexual relations for a variety of reasons? Sometimes to procreate, or to prove their "normal" status to disapproving family and friends, or in the worst cases to prove to their spiritual leaders that they have, in fact "changed" or been delivered from the grips of the most dastardly passions known to human kind?

Sometimes the reasons why and their ramifications can be as numerous and as elusive as the cure to this vile disease that plagues our world. But rather than searching the catacombs of our minds for reason why the epidemic continues to spread, let us create reality of life that does not promote the environment whereby our community continues to silently and voluntarily commit our own "communicide." "Communicide" being defined loosely as "a mass murdering/suicide of a community or people by their own behavior." Is it because the men do not get checked, do not use a condom, do not bother to inform their partners that they have been exposed- or participate in high-risk behaviors? Or because the partners do not ask, do not know their own status, do not require the use of condoms, or have chosen to passively or aggressively participate in behaviors that are putting them at risk for HIV transmission?

Sistas (and Brothas) the solutions are simple. We must stop hiding our heads in the sand of life pretending that HIV/AIDS is not plaguing us. We must not allow our leaders, political, religious, or otherwise, to ignore the problem or pretend that it effects only a select few and that those few must deserve it. No one is exempt from the possibility of contracting the virus. HIV/AIDS is an equal opportunity destroyer, it believes fully in the tenets of affirmative action. As the American Red Cross' states **"HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. People put themselves (and their unborn children) at risk of HIV infection by what they do NOT by who they are."**

It's like the game "Life," you spin the wheel and are forced to land on a space that tells you what has happened to you or what you have to do. In some instances there are choices you make (like choosing a career or college) but in others there are NO choices. Fortunately, this life we live is not a game, and we have nothing but choices- even choosing not to choose is a choice. HIV does not have to happen to anyone else; it does not have to happen to you, to me, or to the sista or brotha down the street, in the pew, or in the club. But the question remaining is what is your choice.

For more information on HIV/AIDS or other Womyn's health issues contact the

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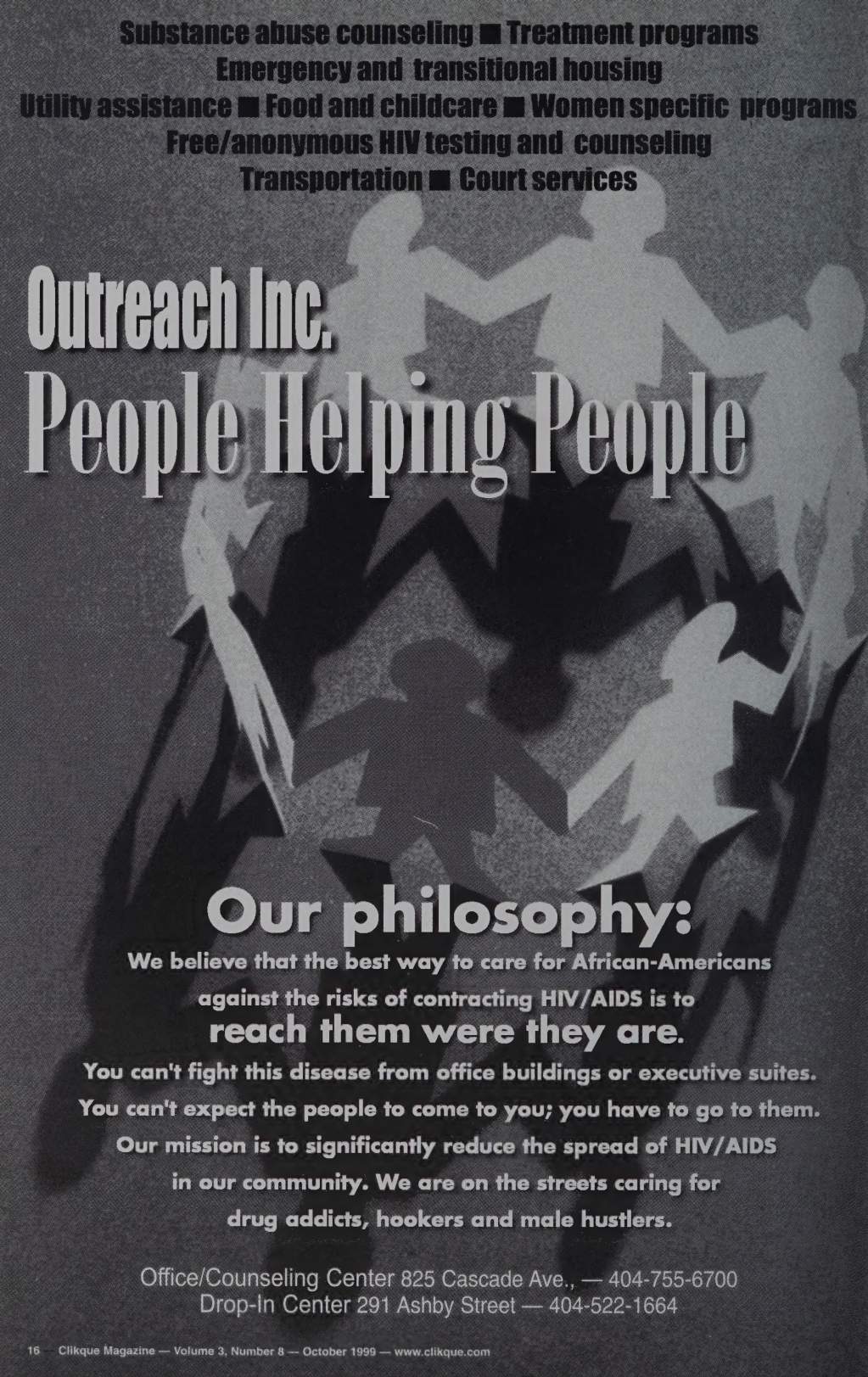
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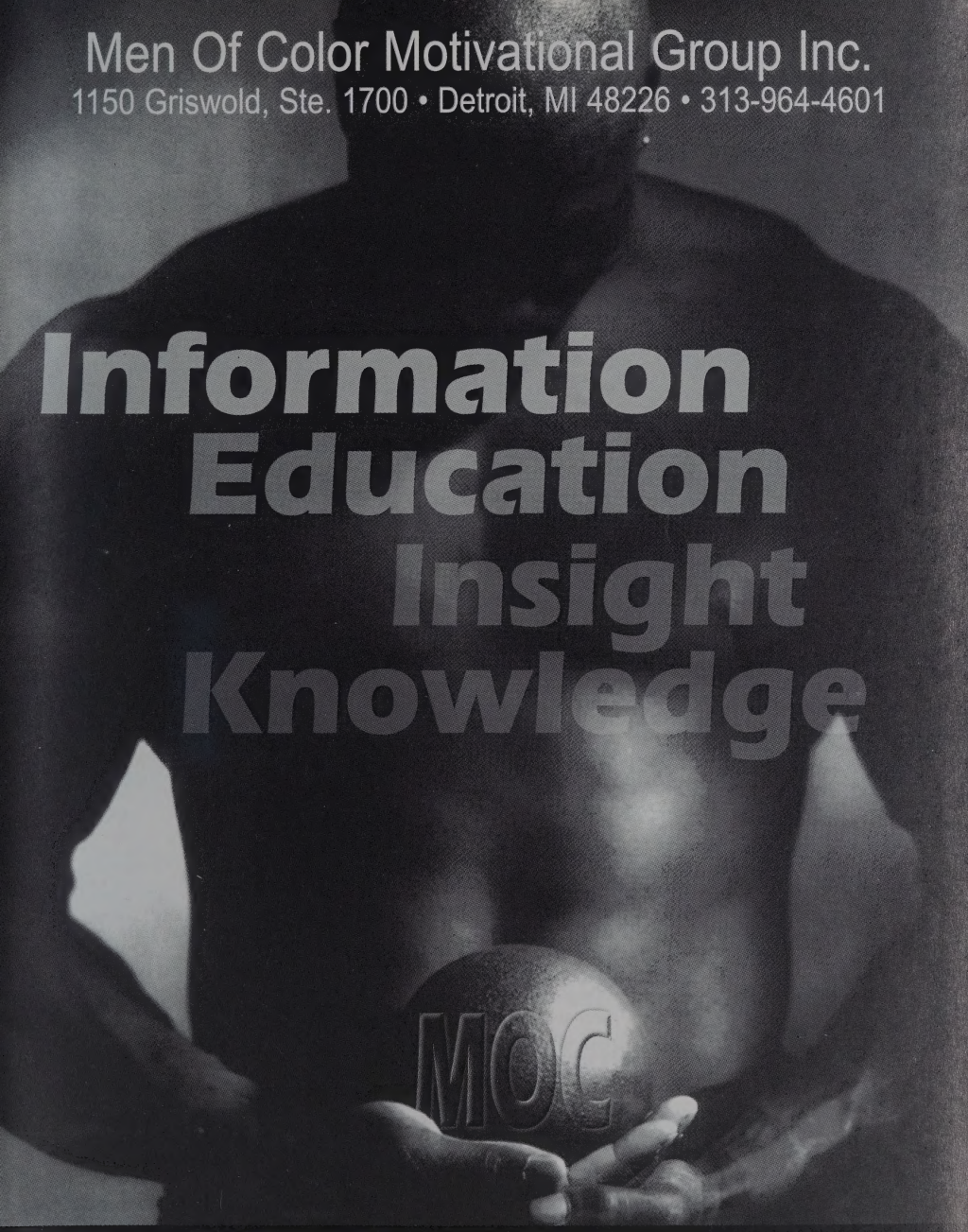


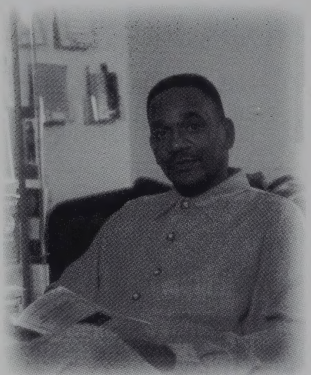
MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.

hiv/aids updates

By Don Sneed - Staff



Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: September 27, 1999 reporting from the Southwestern Front; Dallas, Texas. For many it is sundown in America and for a chosen few they stand on the horizon welcoming the dawn of a new day.

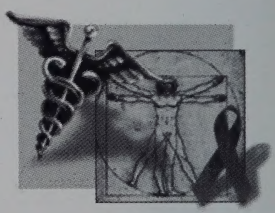
However, the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control paint a bleak picture for African Americans during this, belated, State of Health Emergency for HIV/AIDS. In 1998 for every one (1) white person that died from AIDS; ten (10) African Americans died of the disease. For every one (1) white person that was diagnosed with AIDS ten (10) African Americans were diagnosed with the syndrome. Finally, African Americans comprise 13% of the total population of these United States of America {united against and/or for whom?} yet we made up 49% of the total AIDS cases in this nation. When the 1999 figures are released **they will be worse**.

It kind of makes you feel like a third class passenger on the maiden voyage of the Titanic; a backseat rider in a car with the driver asleep at the wheel or dancing while the house is burning down. This is just the tip of the iceberg. The magnitude of this biological viral horror, for African Americans, is yet to be fully realized. What do we do?

We must open our eyes. Crack cocaine **is not** the most powerful narcotic in man's history. The most powerful, deadly and widely used drug in human history is **a lie**! It affects not only the mind but also the heart, body and souls. It is highly addictive and there is only one known cure: THE TRUTH. It has been said, by the first Manchild, that the truth shall make you free. I submit to you that the truth has the power to set you free from one thing only: the most powerful drug on Earth - a lie! If we, as a people, are to be free from this viral plague then we must, despite any and all pain, commence to tell the truth to ourselves and to one another. Then, and only then, can the freedom to heal be achieved. In time, you will come to know that AIDS is as much a disease of the mind and soul as it is the body!

Now embark with me upon this truth caravan: In black America AIDS is, fundamentally, a disease affecting men. In the South, my neck of the woods {and where the majority of Blacks in this nation still live} it is, fundamentally, a disease of men who are sexually intimate with other men. At ground zero of the disease you will find the Black man, who is **so-called gay**.

This Black man, who **is so-called gay**, is the least of all men in the eyes of his people, himself and this nation. I challenge you to take an honest look at the hierarchy of men in this nation. At the top you will find the Caucasian and the Jew battling it out for domination of this world and the next. As you work your way down the totem pole you will find just above the Black man, the Brown man {Hispanic/Latino}. The Black man, via an Age old conspiracy of circumstance and lies, has been delegated to the bottom of the heap of Humanity. The African nations and the Black men who lead them are considered to be the basket cases of all nations, peoples and continents. In America, within the hierarchy of Black men, the Black man, who is **so-called homosexual**, is the least, of the least, of men in this nation. This person has been told that he is an abomination and condemned to die and live an eternal afterlife of damnation, fire and brimstone. This person has lived, as an outcast or in fear of being an outcast, since his first awareness of his feelings for other men. The Black man, who is **so-called homosexual**, has been taught and conditioned, since childhood, to internalize the belief that he is spiritually disconnected, morally bankrupt and physically inferior to other Black men. This man is at the epicenter of the viral plague sweeping Black America and, thereby, holds the



key to our destruction or salvation. The first Manchild once foretold that the least, of the least, shall be the first, of the first.

Despite this impending African American sui-genocidal biochemical AIDS holocaust, the Black man, who is **so-called homosexual**, in his current state of spiritual, mental and physical being, has no incentive, avenue or heartfelt desire to slow this viral Titanic down. Because of the internalized worthlessness that he feels as a man; he perceives no lasting value in saving

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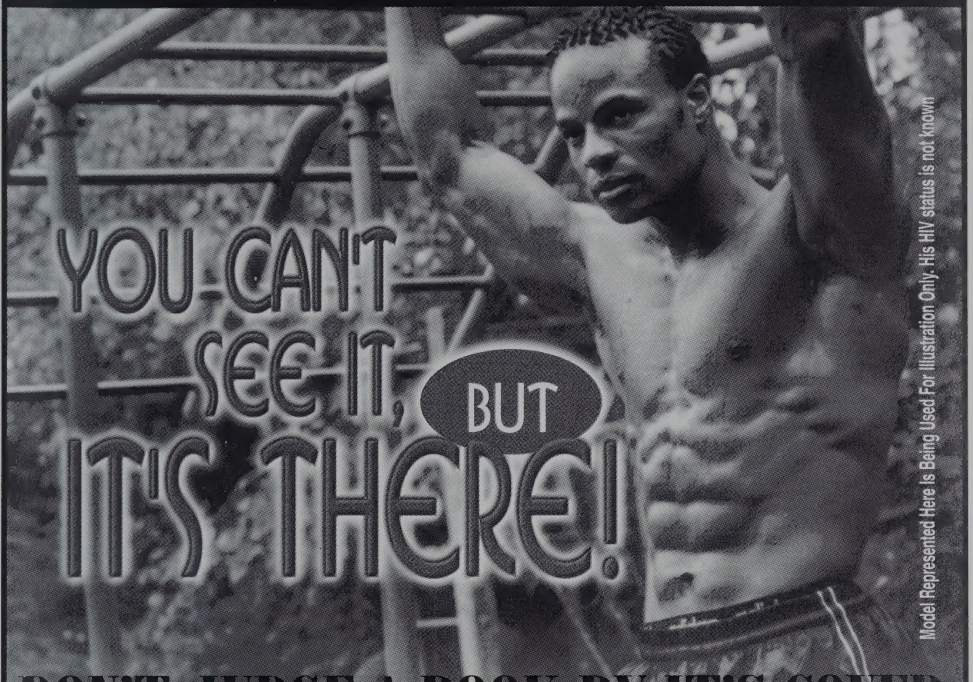
Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

HIV Comes in various packages. There are white ones, black ones, big ones, small ones, short ones, tall ones, sexy ones, and not so sexy ones. You can't identify an HIV infected person by just looking at them. Therefore, always use a Latex Condom and a waterbased lubricant when intimate with that special person. When used properly, latex condoms are effective against HIV, STDs and Pregnancies

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sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb

October 18th-20th

at the Atlanta University Center

The NAMES Project use the **AIDS Memorial Quilt** to help bring an end to the AIDS epidemic. Goals of The NAMES Project: **1.** Provide a creative means for remembrance and healing. **2.** Illustrate the enormity of the AIDS epidemic. **3.** Increase public awareness of AIDS. **4.** Assist with HIV prevention education. **5.** Raise funds for community-based AIDS service organizations.

HIV Testing **Mobile Unit**

our free HIV testing mobile unit will be parked at various sites around Morehouse College, Spelman College, Morris Brown College and Clark Atlanta University.

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AIDS Survival Project — 404-874-7926 — 828 Peachtree Street

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Monday

October 18th

1-2PM
OPENING CEREMONIES
Woodruff Library
Keynote Speaker:
Mrs. Coretta Scott King

2-9PM - QUILT DISPLAY
2-5PM - EXHIBIT HALL HRS
2-5PM - QUILT MAKING
TBA - HIV/AIDS WORKSHOPS
6-8PM - RECEPTION
Woodruff Library
7:45-9PM - CANDLELIGHT MARCH

Tuesday

October 19th

9AM-9PM - QUILT DISPLAY
10AM-3PM - EXHIBIT HALL HRS
10AM-3PM - QUILT MAKING / STORYTELLING
TBA - HIV/AIDS WORKSHOPS
2-6PM - QUILT MAKING WORKSHOP
435 Ashby Street
6-8PM - GREEK/RADIO BASKETBALL GAME
Olympic Arena

Wednesday

October 20th

9AM-9PM - QUILT DISPLAY
10AM-5PM - EXHIBIT HALL HRS
10AM-3PM - QUILT MAKING / STORYTELLING
TBA - HIV/AIDS WORKSHOPS
6-7:30PM - CLOSING CEREMONIES
8-10:30PM - FASHION SHOW *(TENTATIVE)*
Clark Atlanta University

HIV Testing will be made available on-site. Times and Location TBA

Are You Doing It?

When used properly, latex condoms are effective against Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and most STDs.

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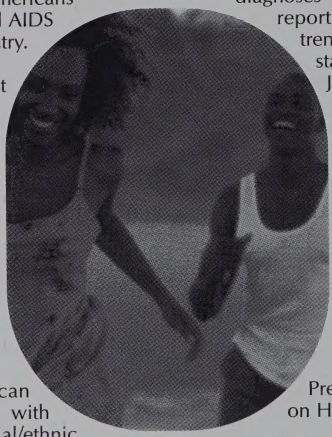
SPECIAL REPORT

THE STATE OF OUR NATION

HIV/AIDS Among African Americans

In the United States, the impact of HIV and AIDS in the African American community has been devastating. Through December 1998, CDC had received reports of 688,200 AIDS cases - of those, 251,408 cases occurred among African Americans. Representing only an estimated 12% of the total U.S. population, African Americans make up almost 37% of all AIDS cases reported in this country.

Researchers estimate that 240,000-325,000 African Americans - about 1 in 50 African American men and 1 in 160 African American women - are infected with HIV. Of those infected with HIV, it is estimated that more than 106,000 African Americans are living with AIDS.



In 1998, more African Americans were reported with AIDS than any other racial/ethnic group.

21,752 cases were reported among African Americans, representing nearly half (45%) of the 48,269 AIDS cases reported that year.

Almost two-thirds (62%) of all women reported with AIDS were African American.

African American children also represented almost two-thirds (62%) of all reported pediatric AIDS cases.

The 1998 rate of reported AIDS cases among African Americans was 66.4 per 100,000 population, more than 2 times greater than the rate for Hispanic and 8 times greater than the rate for whites.

HIV data from a CDC study comparing HIV and AIDS diagnoses in 25 states with integrated reporting systems show these trends are continuing. In these states, during the period from January 1994 through June 1997, African Americans represented a high proportion (45%) of all AIDS diagnoses, but an even greater proportion (57%) of all HIV diagnoses. And among young people (ages 13 to 24), 63% of the HIV diagnoses were among African Americans.

Prevention Efforts Must Focus on High Risk Behaviors

Adult/Adolescent Men- Among African American men with AIDS, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion (38%) of reported cases since the epidemic began. The second most common exposure category for African American men is injection drug use (35%), and heterosexual exposure accounts for 7% of cumulative cases.

Adult/Adolescent Women- Among African American women, injection drug use has accounted for 44% of all AIDS case reports since the epidemic began, with 37% due to heterosexual contact.

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1 in 50
African American men are infected with HIV.

62%
Of all women reported with AIDS were African American

SPECIAL REPORT

THE STATE OF OUR NATION

HIV infection among U.S. women has increased significantly over the last decade, especially in communities of color. CDC estimates that, in the United States, between 120,000 and 160,000 adult and adolescent females are living with HIV infection, including those with AIDS.

Between 1992 and 1997, the number of persons living with AIDS increased in all groups, as a result of the 1993 expanded AIDS case definition and, more recently, improved survival among those who have benefited from the new combination drug therapies. During that 5-year period, a growing proportion of women were living with AIDS, reflecting the ongoing shift in populations affected by the epidemic. In 1992, women accounted for 13.8% of persons living with AIDS — by 1997, the proportion had grown to 19.1%.

HIV/AIDS Among Minority & Young Women

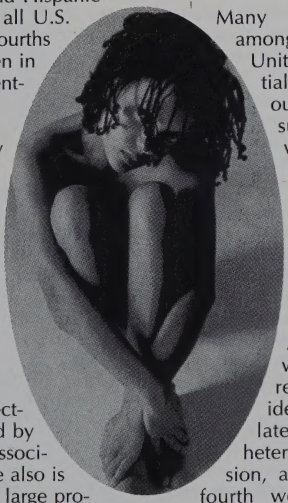
In just over a decade, the proportion of all AIDS cases reported among adult and adolescent women more than tripled,from 7% in 1985 to 23% in 1998. The epidemic has increased most dramatically among women of color. African American and Hispanic women together represent less than one-fourth of all U.S. women, yet they account for more than three-fourths (77%) of AIDS cases reported to date among women in our country. In 1998 alone, women of color represented an even higher proportion of cases.

While AIDS-related deaths among women are now decreasing, largely as a result of recent advances in HIV treatment, HIV/AIDS remains among the leading causes of death for U.S. women aged 25-44. And among African American women in this same age group, AIDS still results in more deaths than from any other cause.

Heterosexual Contact Is The Greatest Risk for Women

Sex with drug users plays large role

In 1998 most women reported with AIDS were infected through heterosexual exposure to HIV, followed by injection drug use. In addition to the direct risks associated with drug injection (sharing needles), drug use also is fueling the heterosexual spread of the epidemic. A large proportion of women infected heterosexually were infected through sex with an injection drug user. Reducing the toll of the epidemic among women will require efforts to combat substance abuse, in addition to reducing HIV risk behaviors.



Many HIV/AIDS cases among women in the United States are initially reported without risk information, suggesting that women may be unaware of their partners' risk factors or that health care providers are not documenting their risk. Historically, more than two-thirds of AIDS cases among women initially reported without identified risk were later reclassified as heterosexual transmission, and just over one-fourth were attributed to injection drug use.

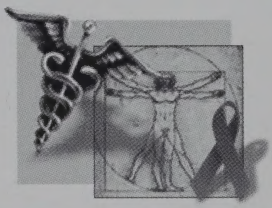
57% Of the 48,269 cases HIV diagnoses last year were African Americans

37% Of all cases ever reported in this United States were those of African American which represents Only 12% of the total U.S Population

HIV/AIDS Statistical Projections/Trends

Our nation is facing the most critical and devastating epidemic in recent history. HIV infection and the clinical complications that follow are placing a heavy strain on medical and social services in both the public and private sectors. HIV infection/AIDS is the second leading cause of death among adults ages 25-44.

The total number of infected persons in the United States is estimated to be from 650,000 to 900,000. This is equal to 0.3 percent of the U.S. population or approximately 1 in 300 Americans (all ages). In the United States approximately 1 in 160 males and 1 in 1,000 females of all ages, or approximately 1 in 160 adult and adolescent (ages 13 and over) males and approximately 1 in 800 adult and adolescent females are infected with HIV.



Surveillance for AIDS began in 1981, following recognition of the first cases of unexplained severe immunosuppression and the resulting opportunistic illnesses. The AIDS surveillance case definition for adolescents and adults was expanded in 1985 and again in 1993 to reflect increased knowledge of the natural history of HIV infection and to remain consistent with the clinical management of HIV disease.

During 1998 the following characteristics of persons reported with AIDS have been observed: Through December 31, 1998, a cumulative total of 688,200 persons with AIDS had been reported to CDC. The 688,200 cumulative reported AIDS cases included:
- 679,739 adolescents and adults,
- 570,425 men,
- 109,311 women,
- and 8,461 children less than 13 years of age. A total of 410,800 of the 688,200 persons reported with AIDS have died.

Among men and women who have been reported with AIDS, three HIV exposure groups continue to account for nearly all cases of AIDS:
- men who have sex with men - 48 percent
- injection drug use - 26 percent
- and heterosexual contact, primarily through sexual contact with injecting drug users - 10 percent

Nearly all of the pediatric AIDS cases reported, over 90 percent, resulted from perinatal HIV transmission.

Until recently, CDC primarily reported trends in the epidemic based on the estimated number of people diagnosed with AIDS each year (AIDS incidence). AIDS incidence provided a reliable picture of trends in the HIV epidemic because researchers could take into account the time between HIV infection and progression to AIDS and estimate where and how many new infections were occurring based on observed cases of disease. But, with recent advances in the treatment of HIV infection that have slowed the progression from HIV infection to AIDS and from AIDS to death, AIDS incidence can no longer be used alone to track the path of the HIV epidemic. While AIDS cases and deaths will provide a valuable measure of groups for whom effective treatment is not available or has not succeeded, these data tell us little about where and how many new infections are occurring—information critical for addressing the increasing need for prevention and treatment services. To analyze recent trends in the epidemic, CDC must therefore rely on data from the states that have so far integrated HIV and AIDS reporting systems for adults and adolescents.

CDC recently examined trends in HIV diagnoses reported through the integrated HIV and AIDS reporting systems in 25 states, adjusted for reporting delays. The analysis suggests that contrary to the declining trend in AIDS diagnoses, HIV diagnoses remain relatively stable in these states, with an increasing toll on women and minorities. The data also indicate a continuing toll among young people ages 13-24, with at least 2,000 young people diagnosed with HIV in these states every year.

Many of these new diagnoses are occurring among African Americans, women, and people infected heterosexually, with an increase observed among Hispanic. From January 1994 through June 1997, a total of 72,905 adults and adolescents were diagnosed with HIV or AIDS in these states. Of these, 52,690 (or 72% of the total cases) were initially diagnosed with HIV, compared with 20,215 cases (28%) initially diagnosed with AIDS.

While these newer data provide a reliable indication of the number and characteristics of individuals who have been diagnosed with HIV in confidential settings, they do not include individuals tested only at anonymous test sites or individuals who have not yet been tested. CDC estimates that two-thirds of people living with HIV infection have already been confidentially tested for HIV and know their status. Studies indicate that a high proportion of high-risk individuals have been tested, and given the increasing benefits of early knowledge of HIV status, it is likely that testing will increase. HIV reporting will therefore become increasingly representative of trends in new infections. As additional states implement HIV reporting, these data will become more representative of national trends in the epidemic.

HIV/AIDS America's Young People At Risk

In the United States, HIV-related death has the greatest impact on young and middle-aged adults, particularly racial and ethnic minorities. HIV is the fifth leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. Among African American men and women in this age group, however, it is the leading cause of death. Many of these young adults likely were infected as teenagers. It is estimated that at least half of all new HIV infections in the United States are among people under 25, and the majority of young people are infected sexually.

In 1998, 1,798 young people (ages 13 to 24) were reported with AIDS, bringing the cumulative total to 27,860 cases of AIDS in this age group. Among 13- to 24-year-olds, 51% of all AIDS cases reported among males in 1998 were among young men who have sex with men (MSM); 10% were among injection drug users (IDUs); and 9% were among young men infected heterosexually. In 1998, among young women the same age, 47% were infected heterosexually and 14% were IDUs. Among both males and females in this age group, the proportion of cases with exposure risk not reported or identified (22% for males and 39% for females) will decrease as follow-up investigations are completed and cases are reclassified into other categories.

A CDC study that analyzed data from 25 states with integrated HIV and AIDS reporting systems for the period between January 1994 and June 1997 found that young people (aged 13 to 24) accounted for a much greater proportion of HIV than AIDS cases. The study also showed that even though AIDS incidence (the number of new cases diagnosed during a given time period, usually a year) is declining, there has not been a comparable decline in the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases among youth.

Scientists believe that cases of HIV infection reported among 13-to 24-year-olds are indicative of overall trends in HIV incidence (the number of new infections in a given time period, usually a year) because this age group has more recently initiated high-risk behaviors. Females made up nearly half (48%) of HIV cases in this age group reported from the 30 areas with confidential HIV reporting for adults and adolescents in 1998—and in young people between the ages of 13 and 19, a much greater proportion of HIV infections was reported among females (62%) than among males (38%). Cumulatively, young African Americans are most heavily affected, accounting for 56% of all HIV cases ever reported in this age group in these 30 areas.

HIV/AIDS 101

HIV/AIDS How HIV Is Transmitted

Research has revealed a great deal of valuable medical, scientific, and public health information about the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The ways in which HIV can be transmitted have been clearly identified. Unfortunately, false information or statements that are not supported by scientific findings continue to be shared widely through the Internet or popular press. Therefore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has prepared this fact sheet to correct a few misperceptions about HIV.

Transmition

HIV is spread by sexual contact with an infected person, by sharing needles and/or syringes (primarily for drug injection) with someone who is infected, or (rarely in countries where blood is screened for HIV antibodies), through transfusions of infected blood or blood clotting factors. Babies born to HIV-infected women may become infected before or during birth or through breast-feeding after birth.

In the health care setting, workers have been infected with HIV after being stuck with needles containing HIV-infected blood or, less frequently, after infected blood gets into a worker's open cut or a mucous membrane (for example, the eyes or inside of the nose). There has been only one instance of patients being infected by a health care worker in the United States; this involved HIV transmission from one infected dentist to six patients. Investigations have been completed involving more than 22,000 patients of 63 HIV-infected physicians, surgeons, and dentists, and no other cases of this type of transmission have been identified in the United States.

Some people fear that HIV might be transmitted in other ways; however, no scientific evidence to support any of these fears has been found. If HIV were being transmitted through other routes (such as through air, water, or insects), the pattern of reported AIDS cases would be much different from what has been observed. For example, if mosquitoes could transmit HIV infection, many more young children and preadolescents would have been diagnosed with AIDS.

All reported cases suggesting new or potentially unknown routes of transmission are thoroughly investigated by state and local health departments with the assistance, guidance, and laboratory support from CDC. No additional routes of transmission have been recorded, despite a national sentinel system designed to detect just such an occurrence.

The following paragraphs specifically address some of the common misperceptions about HIV transmission.

HIV in the Environment

Scientists and medical authorities agree that HIV does not survive well in the environment, making the possibility of environmental transmission remote. HIV is found in varying concentrations or amounts in blood, semen, vaginal fluid, breast milk, saliva, and tears. (See page 3, Saliva, Tears, and Sweat.) To obtain data on the survival of HIV, laboratory studies have required the use of artificially high concentrations of laboratory-grown virus. Although these unnatural concentrations of HIV can be kept alive for days or even weeks under precisely controlled and limited laboratory conditions, CDC studies have shown that drying of even these high concentrations of HIV reduces the amount of infectious virus by 90 to 99 percent within several hours. Since the HIV concentrations used in laboratory studies are much higher than those actually found in blood or other specimens, drying of HIV-infected human blood or other body fluids reduces the theoretical risk of environmental transmission to that which has been observed to essentially zero. Incorrect interpretation of conclusions drawn from laboratory studies have unnecessarily alarmed some people.

Results from laboratory studies should not be used to assess specific personal risk of infection because (1) the amount of virus studied is not found in human specimens or elsewhere in nature, and (2) no one has been identified as infected with HIV due to contact with an environmental surface. Additionally, except under laboratory conditions, HIV is unable to reproduce outside its living host (unlike many bacteria or fungi, which may do so under suitable conditions) therefore, it does

Continues on next page

HIV/AIDS 101

HIV/AIDS How HIV Is Transmitted

not spread or maintain infectiousness outside its host.

Households

Although HIV has been transmitted between family members in a household setting, this type of transmission is very rare. These transmissions are believed to have resulted from contact between skin or mucous membranes and infected blood. To prevent even such rare occurrences, precautions, as described in previously published guidelines, should be taken in all setting "including the home" to prevent exposures to the blood of persons who are HIV infected, at risk for HIV infection, or whose infection and risk status are unknown. For example,

Gloves should be worn during contact with blood or other body fluids that could possibly contain visible blood, such as urine, feces, or vomit. Cuts, sores, or breaks on both the care giver's and patient's exposed skin should be covered with bandages. Hands and other parts of the body should be washed immediately after contact with blood or other body fluids, and surfaces soiled with blood should be disinfected appropriately. Practices that increase the likelihood of blood contact, such as sharing of razors and toothbrushes, should be avoided. Needles and other sharp instruments should be used only when medically necessary and handled according to recommendations for health-care settings. (Do not put caps back on needles by hand or remove needles from syringes. Dispose of needles in puncture-proof containers

Businesses and Other Settings

There is no known risk of HIV transmission to co-workers, clients, or consumers from contact in industries such as food-service establishments (see information on survival of HIV in the environment). Food-service workers known to be infected with HIV need not be restricted from work unless they have other infections or illnesses (such as diarrhea or hepatitis A) for which any food-service worker, regardless of HIV infection status, should be restricted. CDC recommends that all food-service workers follow recommended standards and practices of good personal hygiene and food sanitation.

In 1985, CDC issued routine precautions that all personal-service workers (such as hairdressers, barbers, cosmetologists, and massage therapists) should follow, even though there is no evidence of transmission from a personal-service worker to a client or vice versa. Instruments that are intended to penetrate the skin (such as tattooing and acupuncture needles, ear piercing devices) should be used once and disposed of or thoroughly cleaned and sterilized. Instruments not intended to penetrate the skin but which may become contaminated with blood (for example, razors) should be used for only one client and disposed of or thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use. Personal-service workers can use the same cleaning procedures that are recommended for health care institutions.

CDC knows of no instances of HIV transmission through tattooing or body piercing, although hepatitis B virus has been transmitted during some of these practices. One case of HIV transmission from acupuncture has been documented. Body piercing (other than ear piercing) is relatively new in the United States, and the medical complications for body piercing appear to be greater than for tattoos. Healing of piercings generally will take weeks, and sometimes even months, and the pierced tissue could conceivably be abraded (torn or cut) or inflamed even after healing. Therefore, a theoretical HIV transmission risk does exist if the unhealed or abraded tissues come into contact with an infected person's blood or other infectious body fluid. Additionally, HIV could be transmitted if instruments contaminated with blood are not sterilized or disinfected between clients.

Kissing

Casual contact through closed-mouth or "social" kissing is not a risk for transmission of HIV. Because of the potential for contact with blood during "French" or open-mouth kissing, CDC recommends against engaging in this activity with a person known to be infected. However, the risk of acquiring HIV during open-mouth kissing is believed to be very low. CDC has investigated only one case of HIV infection that may be attributed to contact with blood during open-mouth kissing.

Biting

In 1997, CDC published findings from a state health department investigation of an incident that suggested blood-to-blood transmission of HIV by a human bite. There have been other reports in the medical literature in which HIV appeared to have been transmitted by a bite. Severe trauma with extensive tissue tearing and damage and presence of blood were reported in each of these instances. Biting is not a common way of transmitting HIV. In fact, there are numerous reports of bites that did not result in HIV infection.

Saliva, Tears, and Sweat

HIV has been found in saliva and tears in very low quantities from some people living with AIDS. It is important to understand that finding a small amount of HIV in a body fluid does not necessarily

Continues on next page

Caring for the African American community

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mean that HIV can be transmitted by that body fluid. HIV has not been recovered from the sweat of HIV-infected persons. Contact with saliva, tears, or sweat has never been shown to result in transmission of HIV.

Insects

From the onset of the HIV epidemic, there has been concern about transmission of the virus by biting and bloodsucking insects. However, studies conducted by researchers at CDC and elsewhere have shown no evidence of HIV transmission through insects—even in areas where there are many cases of AIDS and large populations of insects such as mosquitoes. Lack of such outbreaks, despite intense efforts to detect them, supports the conclusion that HIV is not transmitted by insects.

The results of experiments and observations of insect biting behavior indicate that when an insect bites a person, it does not inject its own or a previously bitten person's or animal's blood into the next person bitten. Rather, it injects saliva, which acts as a lubricant or anticoagulant so the insect can feed efficiently. Such diseases as yellow fever and malaria are transmitted through the saliva of specific species of mosquitoes. However, HIV lives for only a short time inside an insect and, unlike organisms that are transmitted via insect bites, HIV does not reproduce (and does not survive) in insects. Thus, even if the virus enters a mosquito or another sucking or biting insect, the insect does not become infected and cannot transmit HIV to the next human it feeds on or bites. HIV is not found in insect feces.

There is also no reason to fear that a biting or bloodsucking insect, such as a mosquito, could transmit HIV from one person to another through HIV-infected blood left on its mouth parts. Two factors serve to explain why this is so—first, infected people do not have constant, high levels of HIV in their bloodstreams and, second, insect mouth parts do not retain large amounts of blood on their surfaces. Further, scientists who study insects have determined that biting insects normally do not travel from one person to the next immediately after ingesting blood. Rather, they fly to a resting place to digest this blood meal.

Effectiveness of Condoms

Condoms are classified as medical devices and are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Condom manufacturers in the United States test each latex condom for defects, including holes, before it is packaged. The proper and consistent use of latex or polyurethane (a type of plastic) condoms when engaging in sexual intercourse—vaginal, anal, or oral—can greatly reduce a person's risk of acquiring or transmitting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection.

There are many different types and brands of condoms available—however, only latex or polyurethane condoms provide a highly effective mechanical barrier to HIV. In laboratories, viruses occasionally have been shown to pass through natural membrane ("skin" or lambskin) condoms, which may contain natural pores and are therefore not recommended for disease prevention (they are documented to be effective for contraception). Women may wish to consider using the female condom when a male condom cannot be used. Female condom is NOT recommended for MSM and sex.

For condoms to provide maximum protection, they must be used consistently (every time) and correctly. Several studies of correct and consistent condom use clearly show that latex condom breakage rates in this country are less than 2 percent. Even when condoms do break, one study showed that more than half of such breaks occurred prior to ejaculation.

When condoms are used reliably, they have been shown to prevent pregnancy up to 98 percent of the time among couples using them as their only method of contraception. Similarly, numerous studies among sexually active people have demonstrated that a properly used latex condom provides a high degree of protection against a variety of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection.
For more detailed information about condoms, see the CDC publication "Facts about Condoms and Their Use in Preventing HIV Infection and Other STDs."

CDC's Response

CDC is committed to providing the scientific community and the public with accurate and objective information about HIV infection and AIDS. It is vital that clear information on HIV infection and AIDS be readily available to help prevent further transmission of the virus and to allay fears and prejudices caused by misinformation. For a complete description of CDC's HIV/AIDS prevention programs, see "Facts about CDC's Role in HIV and AIDS Prevention."

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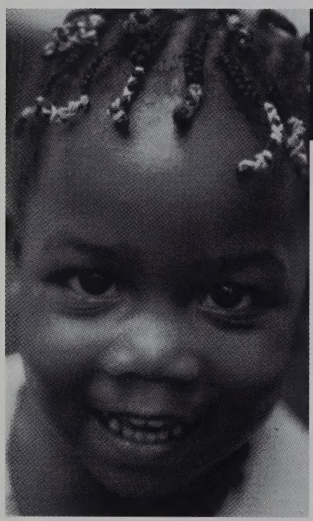
Funded in part by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Human Services Grants Program

Various Contributors

How do you feel about Gays & Having/Raising A Child?



Welcome To The Second Installation Of Clikque Magazine's Topic Of The Month. Each Month We Will Attempt To Bring You Thought-provoking Topics. We hope that you will be enlighten and informed.

Your topic of the month is a very controversial one, and one that should be address more often, so that society can learn to accept what is naturally going to happen.

I am a straight, white woman, with no children, involved with a black man with two small children. I am unable to have children, and do intend to adopt a child when the time is right.

There are too many children in this world with no parents, and no one to show them love on an unconditional basis. No where is it written that parents are to be male and female. If you can love a child, raise a child correctly, be there for that child, then why can't you have one. No matter who your partner is!!!!!!

We are getting ready to enter into a new century, society needs to open it's mind and realize that there are children out there that they don't want to take care of, but apparently they don't what anyone else to take care of either. Telling someone that they can't raise a child, and love a child and such, just because they are gay is absolutely crazy. Those children that are in foster homes and on the streets selling themselves to survive may not have to be in those situations, if they just had someone to show them love.

Thanks you the opportunity to let my feelings out, and for having such a wonderful magazine, which in all reality should not be for just the Black Gay Community. This magazine has been very inspirational and informative. It should be read by all.

Thanks Again

A gay couple raising a Child: Man, what a hot topic! As the barrier of discrimination continue to fall in American society, I believe that it is only a matter of time until this happens. The last barrier of discrimination is that of sexual orientation When raising a child, I believe there are two things that child needs to see and feel from their parents. These two things are love and more love. In those households (straight) where there is little or no love, the child is harmed. We know that a child can learn love from either "mom" or "dad" or both. Thus the question that begs to be asked is, can the child learn from "dad" and "dad" or "mom" and "mom"? I say yes. Therefore, we can assume a child raised by either a gay or lesbian couple will be loved and learn how to love themselves and others.

Robert Raglin II, Spring, TX

Well, I do think that being gay has it's problems and that Gay Couples shouldn't raise a child unless A) It's already there child and the mother is out to lunch or B) They raise a gay teen that needs some positive guidance.....etc.. things of this nature.. but in honesty. A child needs two parents both male and female..... it really does make a difference.

Andre Toney, Compton, CA

I am confident that a SGL couple or person can rear a child just as well as a heterosexual couple and/or person. A person's sexual preference/orientation should not be a bearing on their ability to rear children, as long as they are being properly nurtured, efficiently financially taken care of, and being taught strong moral values. Regardless of a person decision to choose a partner of the same gender or the opposite gender, if you have the ability and financial resources to rear a child, then I feel that you should be afforded the opportunity. We as a society need

to let go of the hang-ups we have with people's sexual preferences and transferring that decision to every other aspect of that person's life.

Eric Ezekiel, Lithonia, GA

Hi there, it is in my option that as long as the parents love the child and that child is being brought up in a loving caring home with people who are honest with themselves as well as with the child and letting the child grow up knowing that yes I'm gay and I'm your father. To give, that is the thing that will make a difference to the child. We as a society have so many "rules and regulations" that we are supposed to go by that if we went by them we would be dead before we knew that we had lived. I have no children however I'm close to 2 of my friends children and they feel the same way that I do I love their kids, however, I also know that society would try to take the kid away from me and that would hurt the child more than help the child. We must learn how to say sweep around your own back door before you try to sweep around mine.

Matthew Blathers, Atlanta, Ga

Because many persons in society view homosexuality has either a sinful and/or disgusting act in the sight of the Creator and Man, it's not very surprising that there exist people who wouldn't want to see children raised by parents of the same gender. In my opinion, committed couples (heterosexual or non-heterosexual) should have the right to raise children.

I feel that in order for society to recognize the love gay people have for the youth of the world, several initiatives must take place and/or continue to be practiced:

1. One's attraction to someone else (be it homosexual or otherwise) is not sinful and sexuality is something that should celebrated before the LORD, for it's the LORD who created sex and sexuality in all people. Furthermore, one must recognize the difference between attraction and lust.

2. If the children raised by gay couples are non-heterosexual, then what better environment for the child to be in than one in which the child can learn about how GOD made him/her to be what He has them to be?

3. If the children raised by gay couples are heterosexual, then society must understand that it's not the intent of gay couples to produce more gay people. That is, gay couples are not out to convert heterosexuals to homosexuals and vice versa.

4. The non-heterosexual community must redefine the lifestyle that is based on non-heterosexuality in such a way that non-heterosexuals will not be perceived as or portray themselves as ravenous sexual predators who rebel against societal norms because of oppression.

5. There are many children of gay couples who, like their gay parents, are non-dysfunctional contributing

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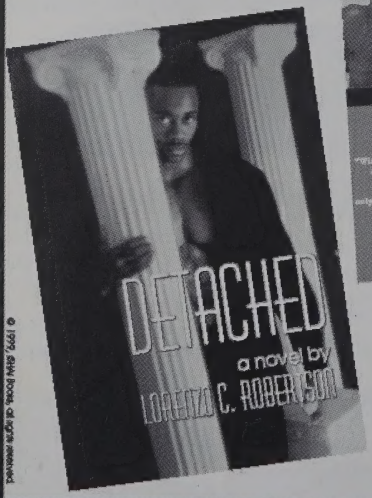

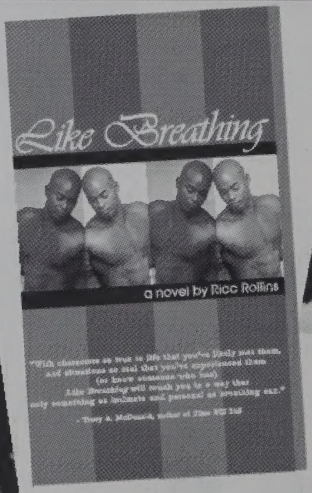

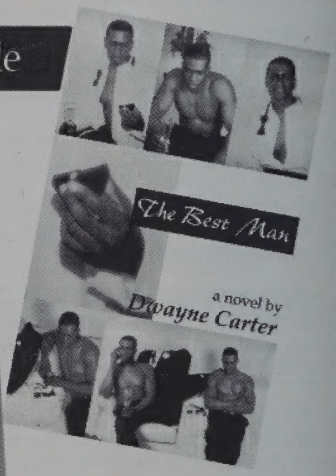

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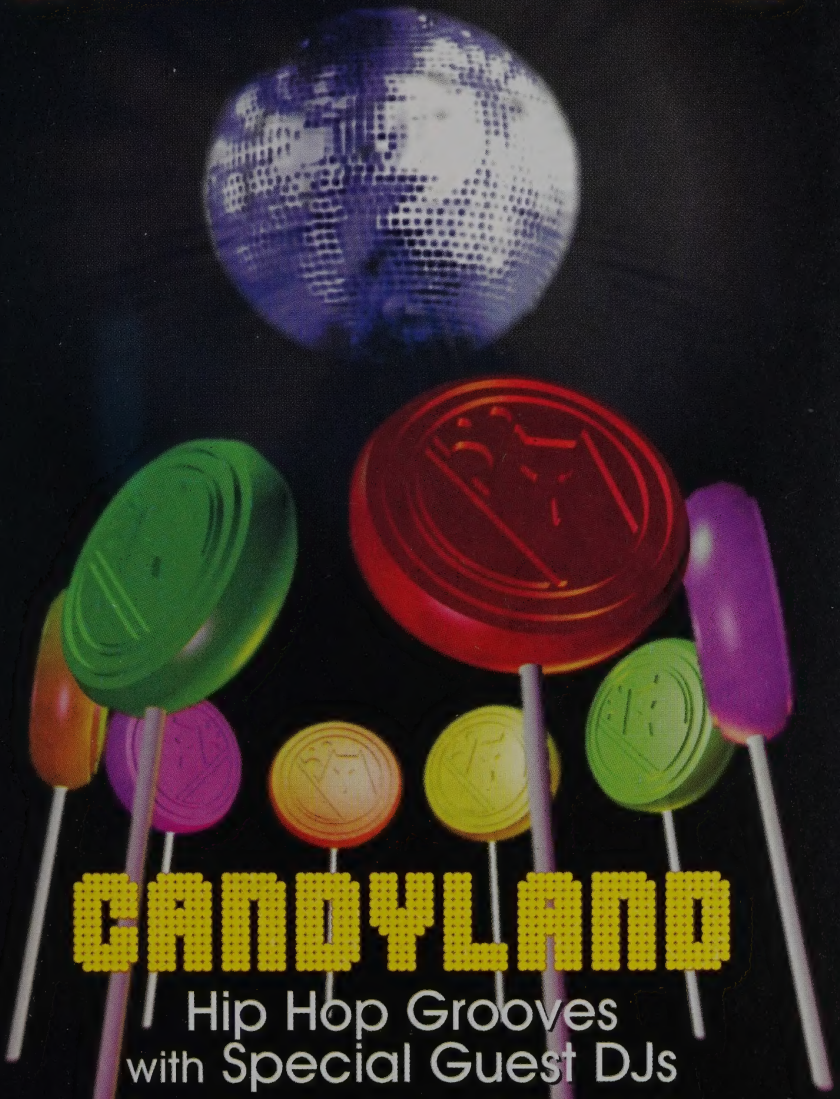
Backstreet Atlanta
and "The Duchess" Present

CANDYLAND



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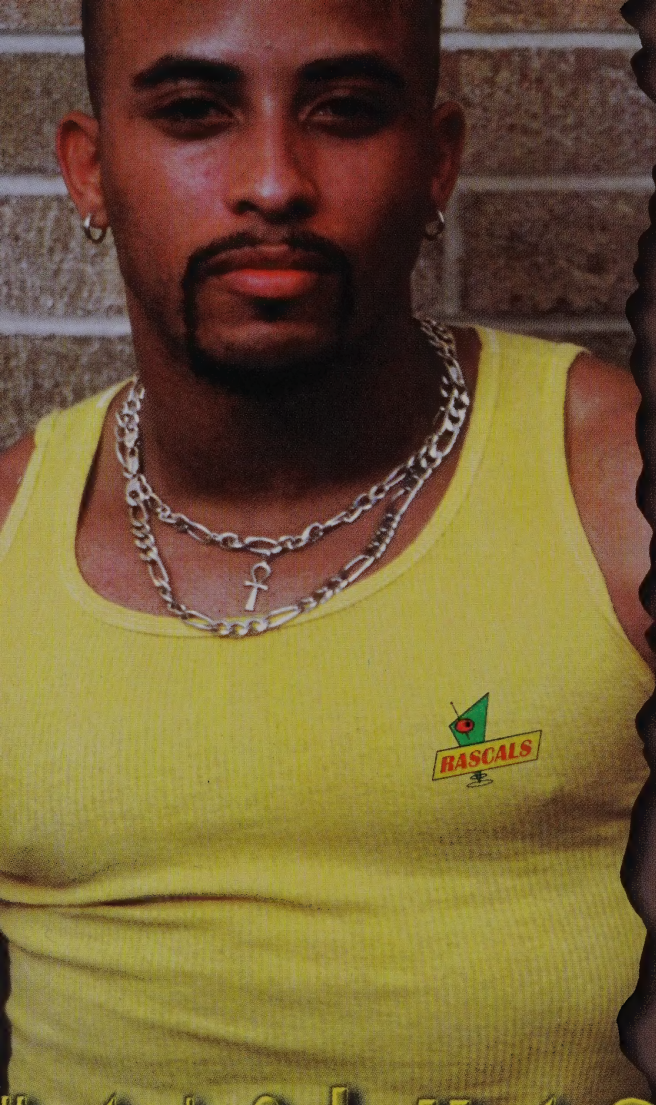

WEEKLY LINE-UP

THURSDAYS

COOKIE LACOOK HOSTS SEE YA NEXT THURSDAY TALENT NIGHT

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Who would you take? To ...

The Prom

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All Winner will receive the Following: Free Entry for Winner and Date . Limo Service to the Prom and Surprise After Party . Exclusive Table Seating and Free Champange!

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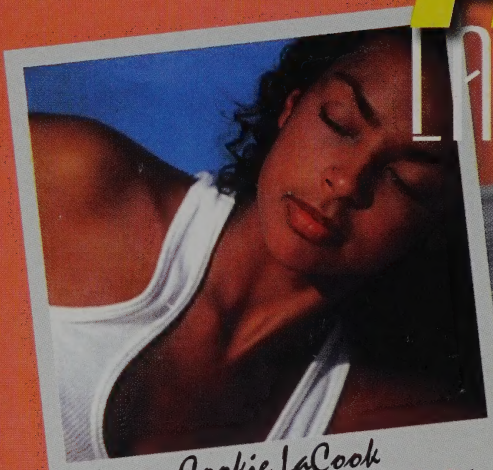

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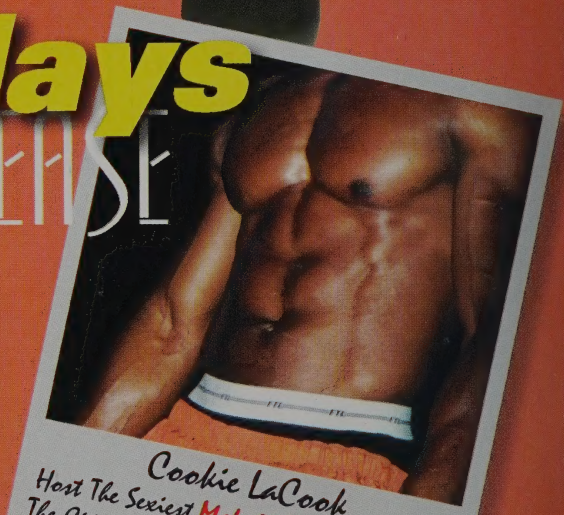
Mondays
STRIP TEASE



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The City of Houston with DJ D on the box

November 20th

SOUTHERN DIVAS DRAG FEST
Niesha Dupree & Co From The ATL
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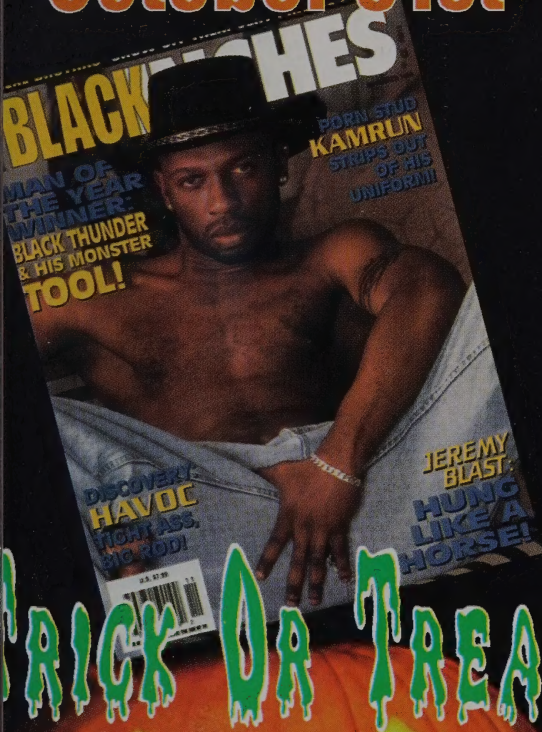
Black Inches

Man Of The Year,

Black Thunder

October 31st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MAN OF THE YEAR WINNER: BLACK THUNDER & HIS MONSTER TOOL!
PORN STUD KAMRUN STRIPS OUT OF HIS UNIFORM!!
DISCOVER: HAVOC NIGHT ASS, BIG ROD!
JEREMY BLAST: HUNG LIKE A HORSE!

THURSDAYS

Ebony Flesh

Male Review.

House/Hip Hop with

DJ Kevin Ford (Main Room)

Doors open @ 11 - Showtime Midnite

FRIDAYS

B-Boy Night

DJ Sedric on the 1st and 15th

Res. DJ Kurt on the 9th and 22nd -

MAINROOM - HOUSE

RESIDENT DJ SMASH - HIP HOP - VYBE ROOM

HOT FUDGE SUNDAES

The Boys Are Back

Black/Latino Flesh

Male Review.

along with **two** e ntertainers from this list of our Fusion Illusion cast:

Niesha Dupree, Stasha Sanchez Necole Luv Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Lady Fabian, Niki Bonet, Maxine Blue, Dominique Rashad, Andre Starr, Bijon, R'Darius, Monte St. James, Ariel Bonet, Calvin Sinclair, Johnny Thompson, Licia Paris, and Jennifer St. John

Doors open @ 11 - Showtime Midnite

HIP HOP/House w/DJ Smash (Mainroom)

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Foxy Brown

Clikque Does Atlanta

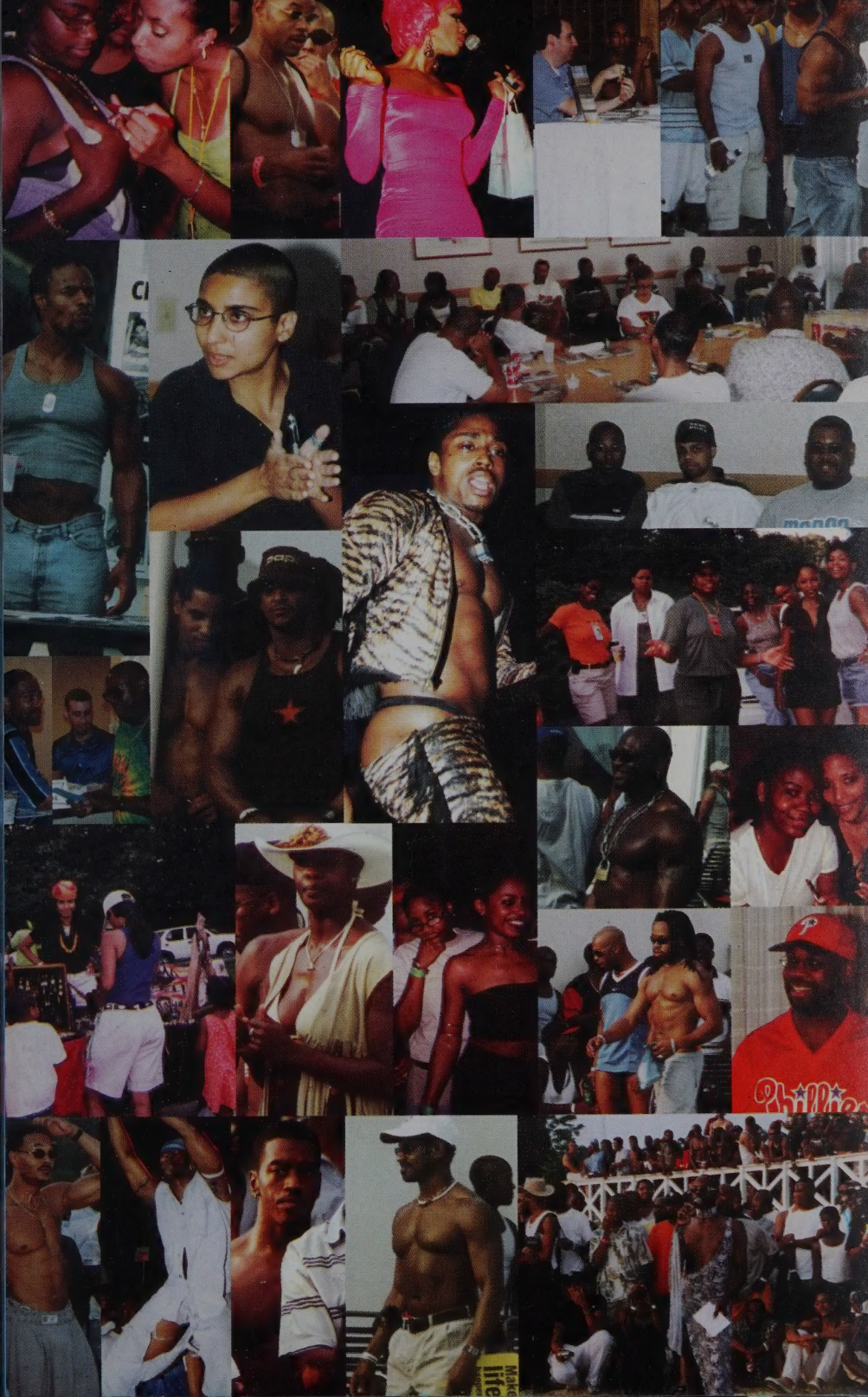
ATL PRIDE 99

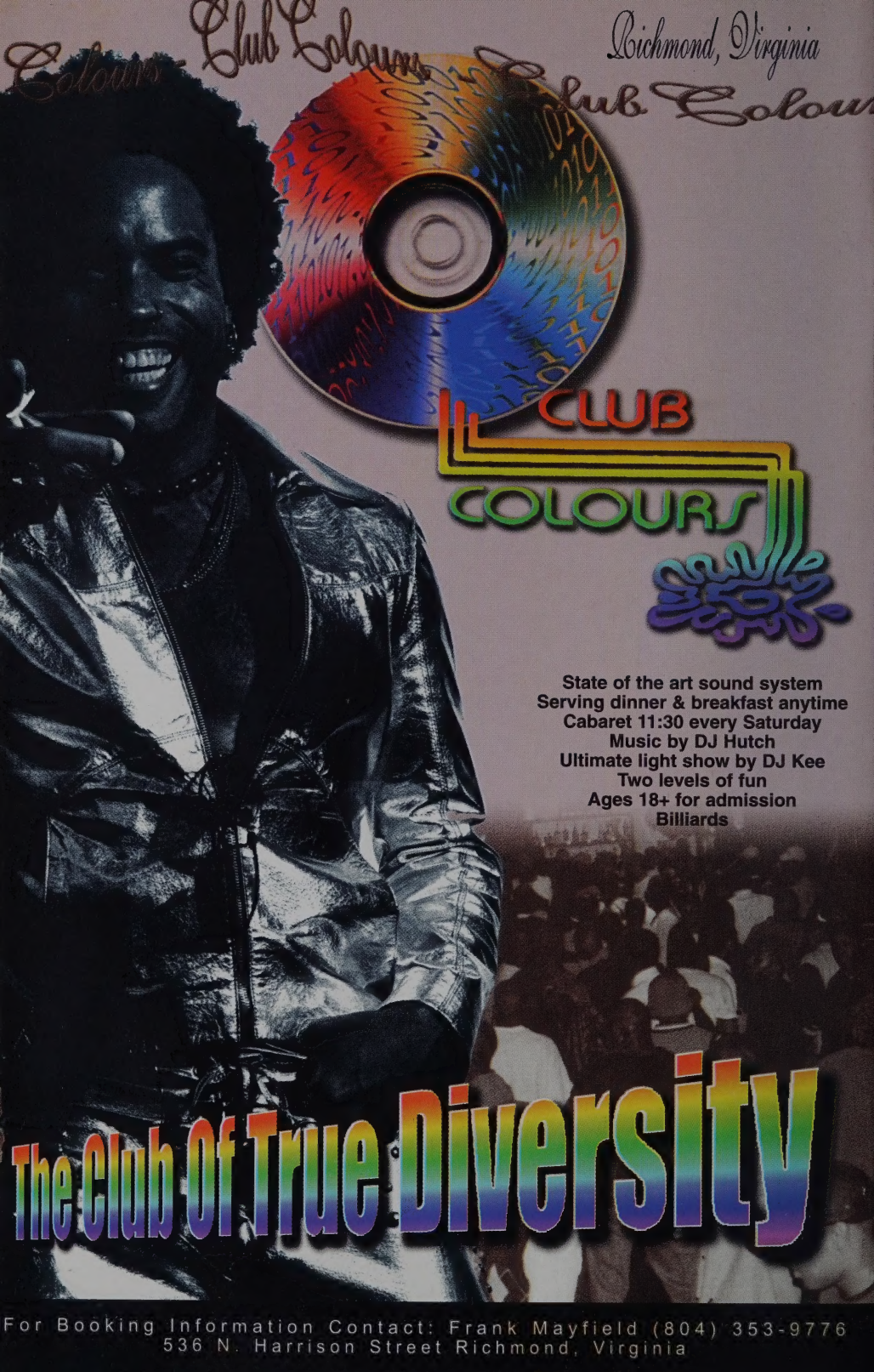
Wow, what an awesome weekend. Almost 20,000 people converged on the scene to confirm that Atlanta is without a doubt, the Nation's party capital for same gender loving people of color. Everyone was up in she... Atlanta that is. The official organizers of the entire weekend, **In The Life Atlanta, Inc.**, said that they were extremely encouraged by the amount of people that attended the many (non-party) workshops and seminars at their host hotel. They also informed Clikque that they have already began to plan for next year's events, which is expected to be the Biggest and Best Pride Weekend Ever.

This year the night clubs where letting the "kidds" have it; a great time that is. Most of the promoters pulled all the stops in attempts to ensure that everyone enjoyed themselves. If you didn't have a great time, it's only because you didn't want to.

MC Lyte

Fusion got us started with a great male strip show on Thursday, 2 huge tents filled with men and awesome sounds by Sedric, Smash & Kurt on the two main dance floors on the inside. **The Palace** joined in with a lot of the same and culminated their weekend (for many) with a fierce block party on their famous Sunday night gathering. **Ragina** from **J2K Production** had the girls screaming for more with the likes of **Shanice** while **Lisa Cox** from **Girls In The Night** offered **White Chocolate** and **MC Lyte**, both of whom sent the girls into a frenzy. If you guys missed **Foxy Brown** at **TRAXX**, let me tell you, she was the bomb. Kudos to **Philip Boone** and TRAXX for offer our SGL community such a high profile entertainer. Saturday was absolutely FIERCE at TRAXX. Also a big hit, **Boyz Town**, a gathering of fine brothers at Rio Mall which offered a great daytime atmosphere. What have I missed, oh yes, for the first time since creation probably, to the astonishment of many visitors, the doors of **Loretta's** were closed. Well we are pleased to inform you that the club is now open. Did somebody say name change? Good luck Chris. Oh my God, there must have been a pool party every, and most of them were great, most. Labor Day Weekend was indeed FIERCE, Even **Clikque** came for you in a big way, the magazine was **PHAT**. See you guys next year.

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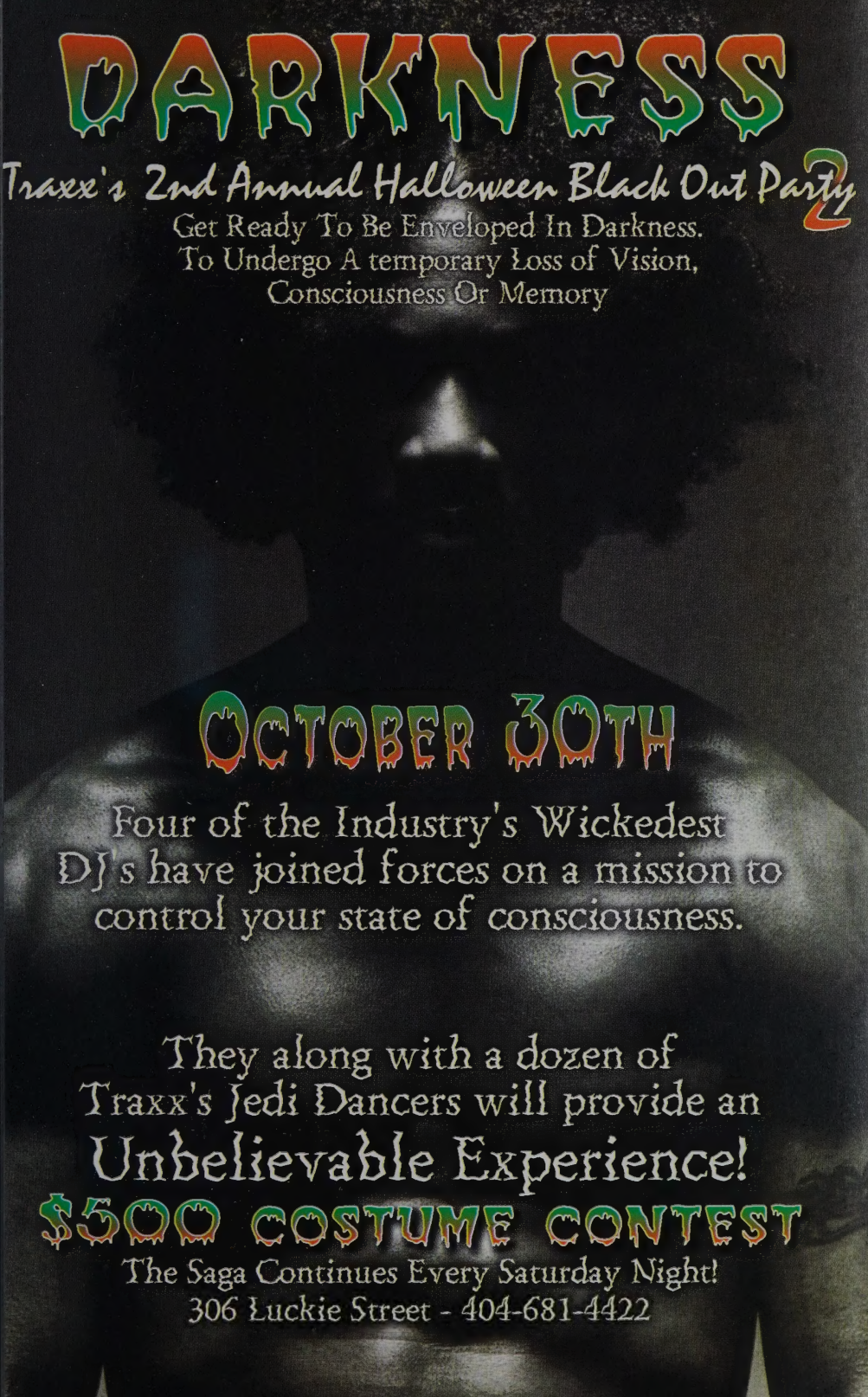
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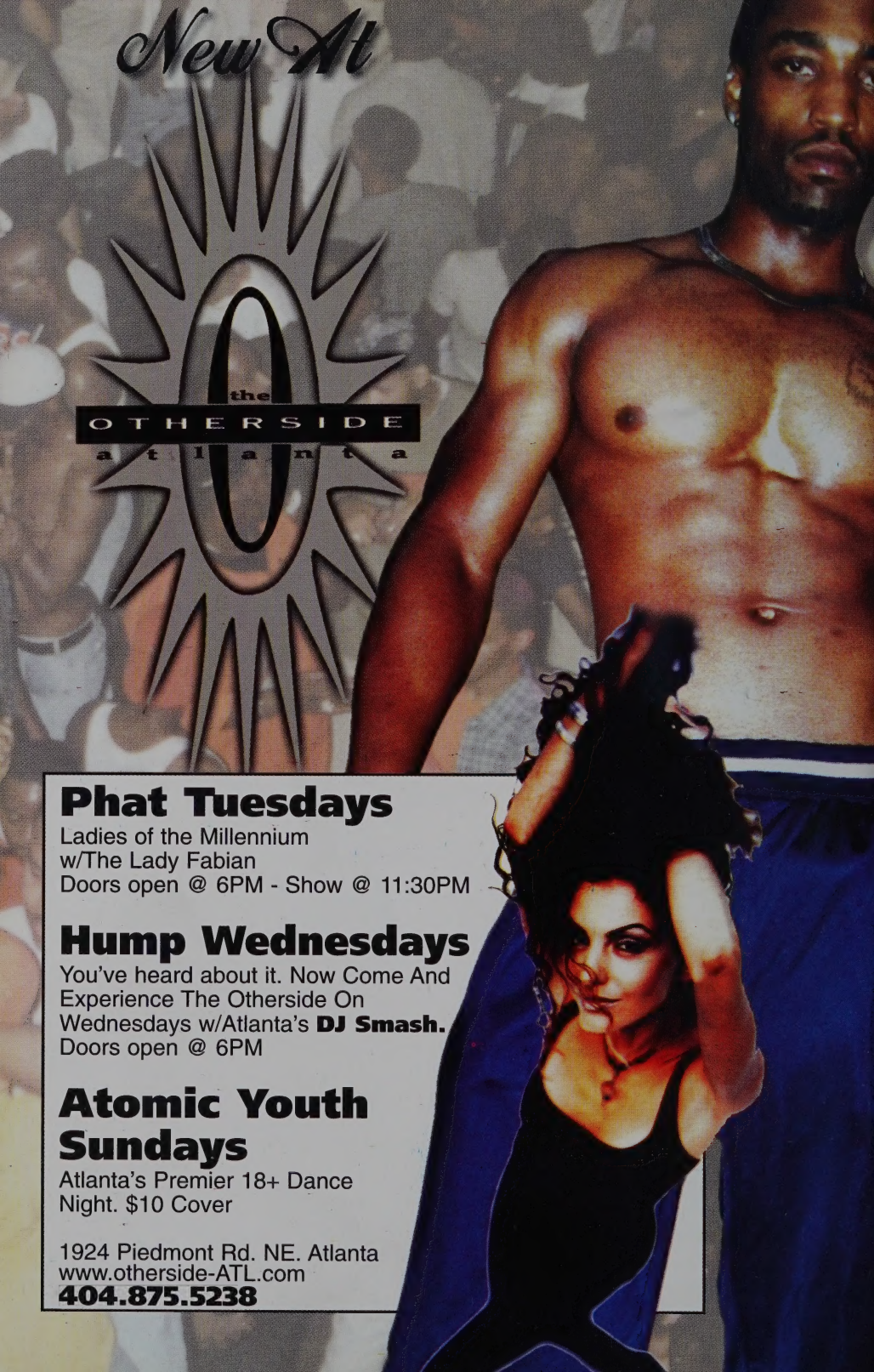
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Talent Night Starts @ 11PM
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Fri. Oct 29th
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Boyzz Night Out - Cum and Be Spooked Out Of Your Mind By Some Of Texas Only Three Legged Human Horse Men
You've Got To See These Boyzz
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Male Dancers 'Til Your Mama Cums Home

Sat. Oct 30th
IT'S ALMOST HERE!!!
BLACK CAT NIGHT

We're Not Asking You To Wear All Black! You Are Here By Summons To Wear All Black. Then You Will Fit In.
Male & Female Dancers All Night

Sun. Oct 31st
MASQUERADE BALL

See Back Page For All Of The Details.

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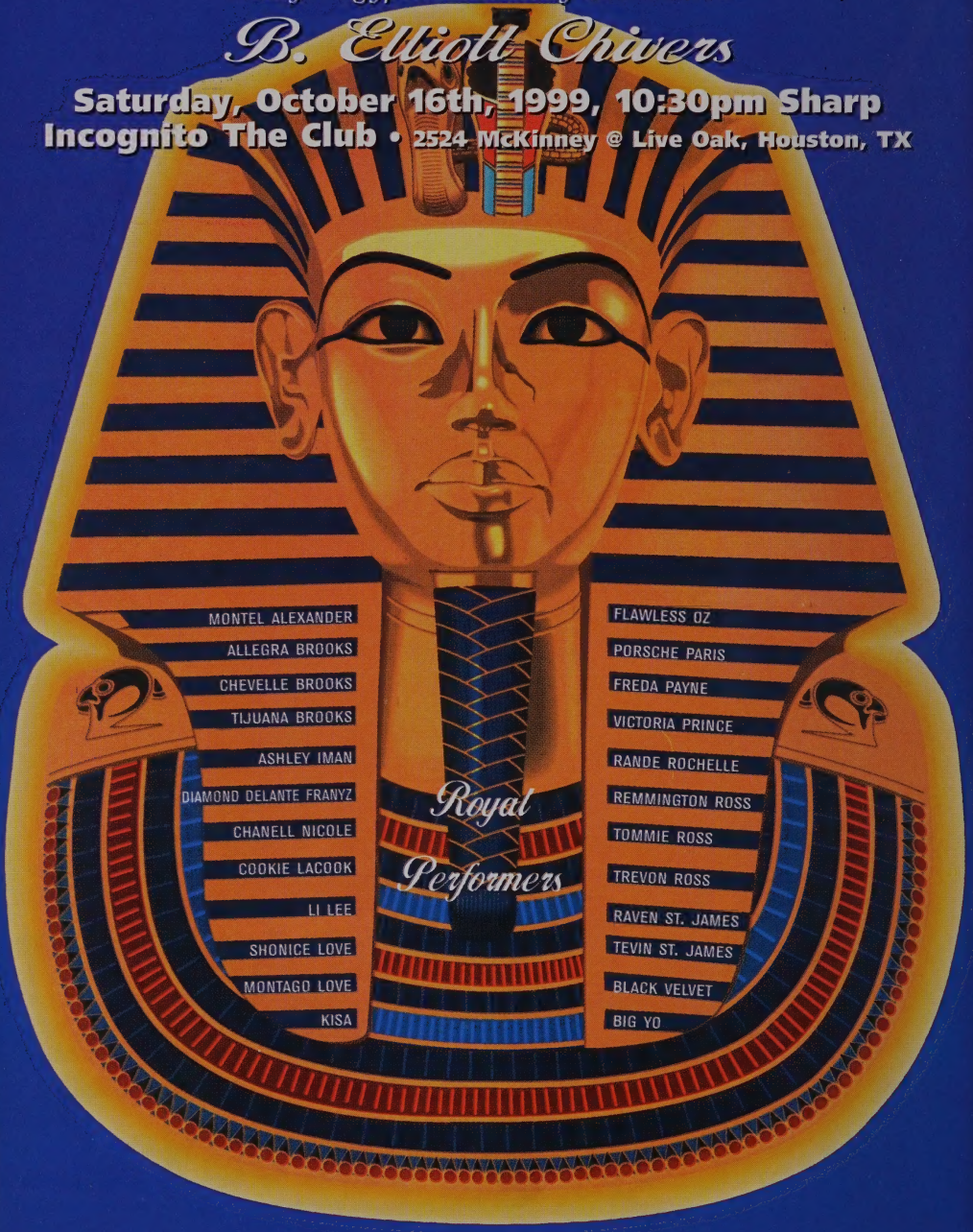

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Designed by Elliott

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2md Annual Woman of The Year Pageant

For Women Only

Categories:

Presentation In Red • Evening Gown • Talent

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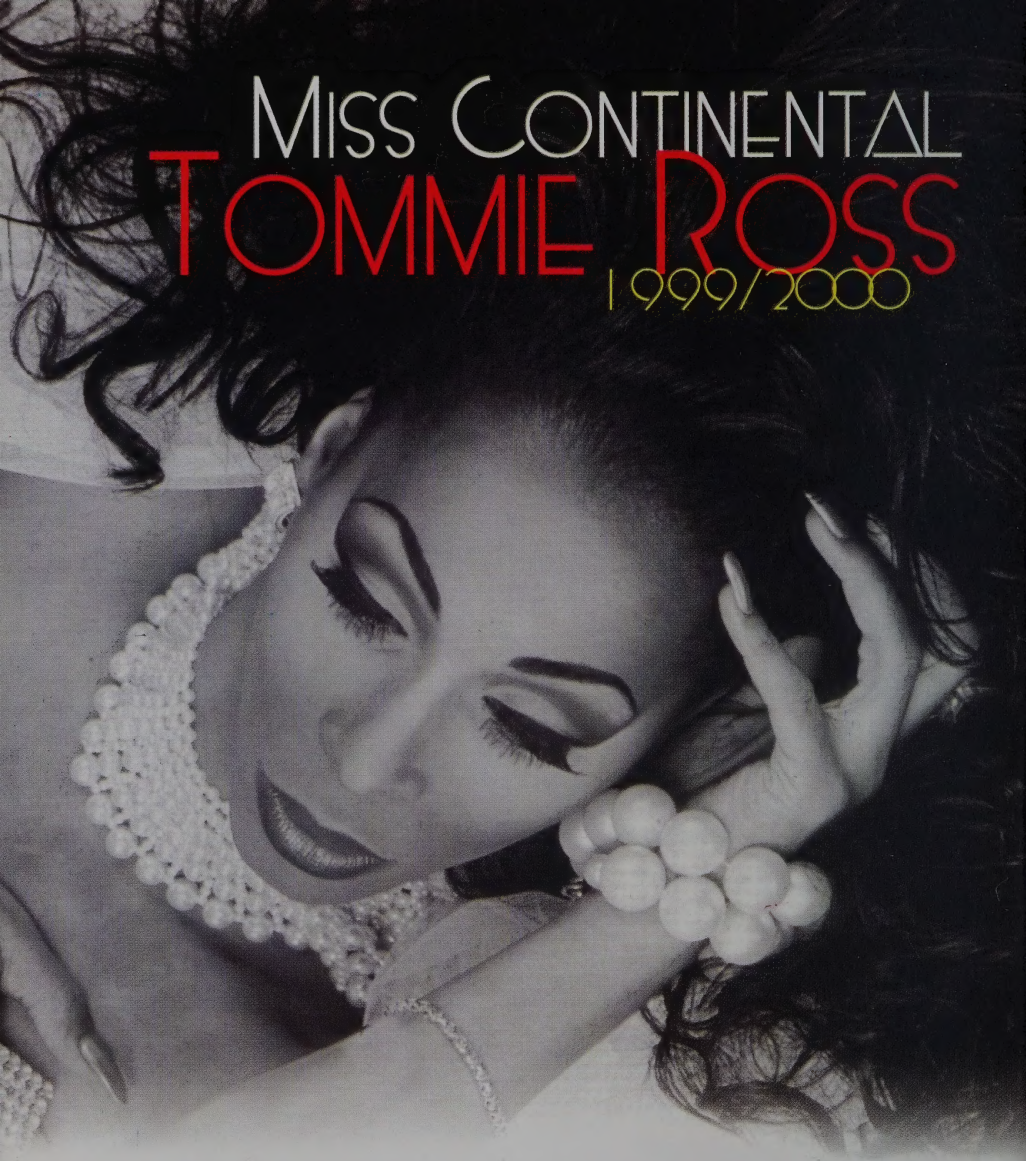
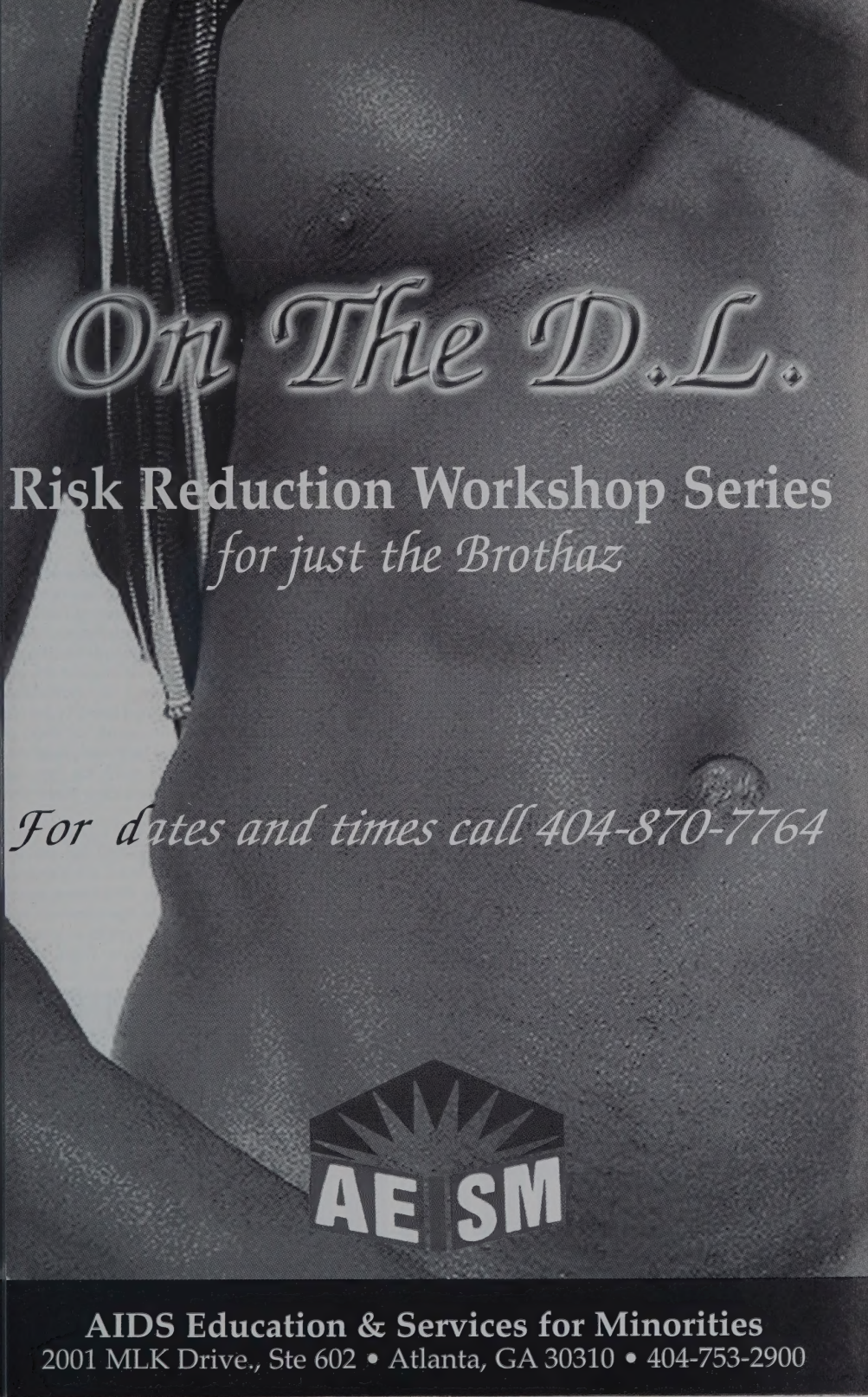


It's great to know you can count on some people to go the extra mile. I would like to thank each and everyone who prayed and supported me on the journey to capture Ms. Continental 1999/2000

And a special thanks to my sponsors, family, and friends
Love Always, Miss Continental, Tommie Ross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Continued FROM page 00

members of society. An example of this can be found in the book Love Makes A Family.

Shurron Farmer, Washington, DC

Since the majority of our parents did not anticipate parenting a gay son or daughter. It was inevitable. For those of us that feel we did not choose this lifestyle, and that we were born this way. There was nothing my mother or father, or whom ever was my parent, could have said to prevent this Fabulously Gay Me. The Heterosexual Society FEARS of a GAY couple parenting a child is only that, another homophobic fear. The idea that a Gay couple could yield yet another Gay child as the result of being "in that type of environment," But it is not the by the sanction of the couple, but by the sanction of the Master of His Creation. Does the heterosexual society think that there are classes we hold in our homes as part of the curriculum of parenting our children to impose on them this Fabulously Gay lifestyle? Let's be serious. As we grow older we come to our own realizations and theories about life, love and liberty. Whether we are straight or gay, the opportunity for a child to be his/her own person is all the parenting we can give.

Each person is born with one specific thing in common, a mind: some are a little more fabulous than others, none-the-less, we each have a mind of our own. It is up to the parent or parents to teach that child that it is okay to have his own ideologies about life and love and what he/she or she gets out of it. So if a gay couple happens to parent a (dare I say it) "Loving, Educated, Successful, Straight human being" who has not or has homophonic views in regards to others or his own parents lifestyle, well so be it. Be proud that you parented a child that could think for him self without being influenced by others. You have successfully completed Parenting 101.

So in answer to your question, how do I feel about a Gay Couple Parenting a Child, I think it's Fabulous that someone feels that they have time, energy, and most importantly love to devote to the joy of parenting a child. If the couple, whether straight or gay, can make that happen, then let it happen. There are so many "Straight" parents out there in this world that need to have their parental rights revoked due to abandonment, neglect, and abuse it's utterly disgusting. Where in the world out the conception of the words "dysfunctional family" did we lose site of what it means to be a Parent? As when I, a Lesbian African-American, decide to parent my child, I intend to do it that very same way my "Mama" a heterosexual African-American female parented to me, regardless if my son or daughter finds joy in being Fabulously Gay or Fabulously Straight.

Gena Alexander,
Madison Heights, MI

I have learned, from many heterosexual women and men, that SGL (Gay) men and women have always been very loving people. I believe that we are that

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way because we are always trying to find that love that was never given when we were younger. Now, of course, we don't all share the horror stories of growing up "The Different Kid Who Doesn't Know About Love", but I am sure that you have heard the stories and can relate. I believe that SGL(Gay) men and women would probably be better parents to children than our Heterosexual counterparts. I believe this because we are always looking for that "LOVE" and want it returned. Also, if you have been lucky enough to find someone to live out your life with, the Love and Caring that is built inside is tripled. Women, in general, are very caring individuals and SGL(gay) Men, especially feminine ones, have what it takes. Most, very masculine, men are just carbon copies of the men in our past that never showed love the way you wanted it.

I close by stating that when GOD blesses you with love he magnifies your love so you can share it with others. May God bless and keep those that have or want children. May he bless us all with the fruits of our labor.

PEACE
M.Ari.C, Berkeley, CA by way of Atlanta, GA

Firstly, I would like to say that this was my first visit to your website on a tip from a friend. Although I am yet to actually see your magazine, I'm very impressed with what I've seen so far!!

As to the question of the month, I believe that just as there are heterosexuals who are unfit to be parents there are same gender loving people who are unfit. However, being gay should not be a criteria for excluding us from parenthood. There are many children of gay parents who themselves are not gay. Further, should gays be stopped from having children if we wish?? If same gender loving people want to have children, they can and therefore should be allowed to adopt.

There are to few foster and permanent homes for children to discriminate on this basis. We should be looking for good parents period!!!

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Amado Musa Lanai

Why question? A gay couple has or should as least have the same right to raise a child as our "straight" counterparts.

In the development process of child rearing, nurture, support, and unconditional love should be the determining factors whether or not a couple, hetero- or homosexual, should have a child. The sexual orientation of the couple's does not determine the capability in the performance of child-rearing, but mental maturity, emotional stability, and financial security plays a vital role.

I feel strongly about the topic. I feel we, as a community, should share in the beauty of family and the warmth of parent-children love. But we also must realize the difficulties

and prejudices that we will embark during these times. We must realize as much as it may be a "gay-friendly" area, it is still a hetero-dominant society, and as far as they are concern gays are wrong. We are tolerated not condoned. To place a child under the care of a gay couple in these times of bigotry would bring along numerous emotional and psychological stress for that child, and as a gay couple are they ready for that?
Just some food for thought, but my feelings are evident in the paragraphs.

Thanks, M.N., Atlanta, Ga.

Society has a screwed perception already. Especially when we have so many abused,neglected and homeless children already that are looking for love and attention. Part of loving and raising a child is helping them understand the differences in society. I think that not explaining these differences harms a child more because they don't get a full understanding of life. They need to have the knowledge to make their own choices and knowing that the two PEOPLE care about you to give you the love and caring you didn't get from your biological parents is all that's important. Society does more harm to the child and itself when they discriminate.

KENNY OMNI, Chicago, IL

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By Paris France, atlanta, ga.

"I'm just a girl"

Like a boat on the bed of a raging sea,
my heart is crying out,
"Somebody help me!!!"
Merciless waves, the angry wind.
Will this storm in my life ever end?

I don't understand the course or this way
but I must follow, I can not stray.

This is all so new to me. My mind is screaming,
"SET ME FREE!"

This face in my memory I can't seem to shake.
Soul chained with confusion, I can not break.

Imprisoned by the thought of you.
Oh God, what am I to do?

Wait to see what the future brings?
Shall I dance, walk, perhaps sing?
Write it down as I have done?
Gaze into the night or maybe the sun?

"Hauah"

I'm not a pervert, freak, or not of this world.
I'm just a girl.

I'm not dangerous, I do not kill. I don't even fight.
You would love me at first sight.

Why do you judge me, I don't understand.
Is it because I don't want a man?

I'm just a girl, trying to exist in this world.
Can I walk down th street without your dirty looks,
pretending you don't see me.

I'm crying out, can't you hear?
The voice of a girl with many tears?

I don't understand why I like women
and I'm not asking.
Just except me for who I am
and who I could be.

Don't hate me, I didn't ask for this.
I'm just a girl in a society that does not want me.
Except me. I'm just a girl.

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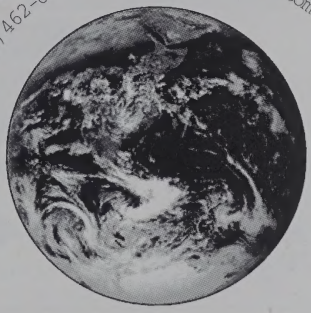

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WEEK DAY SPECIALS

Continued FROM page 18

himself to spend eternity in hell. The iceberg is dead ahead. Yes!, the Black man, who is so-called gay, is at the bottom of the barrel when it comes to the hierarchy of men in this nation. But have you ever seen what happens to the contents at the top and middle of a barrel when the bottom falls out? This person, the Black man, **who is so called gay**, needs a revolution. A revolution that will steer Black America around the HIV/AIDS iceberg. A revolution that will jumpstart the healing process. A revolution of the mind will give way to a healing of the heart, a cleansing of the soul and the return to health of the body and our people. "I'm talkin bout a revolution" - **a revolution of the MIND.**

The first Manchild, commonly referred to as Jesus Christ, **correctly** as Jesus the Christ was/is a teacher. Where did all these preachers come from? Jesus the Christ, first Manchild, Progenitor of the Christian Way/Faith {not Christian}Harbinger of the Christine Spirits, Shepherd of the 144,000 first Redeemed of Man for the Triune GOD, standing on Zion, is calling forth the Third Epoch. If you have eyes, than you shall see; if you have ears, than you shall hear; if the Triune GOD has your mind, than you shall understand this.

For Black men {in America}, who are so-called gay, here is your Truth:

The Advent of Eu-man Menchildren of the Millennium At the Dawn of the New Day

The Society of Eu-men

The Society of Eu-men is an associated group of African American men who believe in these triune tenets of a Eu-man.

1. We recognize that God is the Creator, Father and Mother of all things that were, are and shall be; then, now and forevermore unto whose will and desire for Peace, Love and Understanding for all of Life and Humankind we pledge ourselves to perpetual service in this life and all others to come.

2. We recognize that Jesus, the Christ, was, is and shall continue to be the ultimate manifestation of the unity and totality of the Triune God: the Creator, Father and Mother of all Humankind. Jesus, the Christ, was, is and shall continue to be the ultimate personification of a Eunuch for the Kingdom of the Triune God: the Creator, Father and Mother of all things unto whom we progressively strive to emulate and become like unto in this life and all others to come.

3. Through the Omnipotence, Omnipresence and Omniscience of the Triune God: the Creator, Father and Mother of all things whose essence of spirit dwells within and outside of ourselves

Continues on next page

By Gregory Victorian-chicago, il.

She may never receive an Oscar or even a Grammy, but Diana Ross has been one tough cookie. Missy was recently put behind bars on foreign soil as she slapped a Scotland Yard's police officer when going through customs at the notorious Heathrow Airport in London.

ENTERTAINMENT

Word out of the UK has reported that the Queen of Weave was recently hauled off to jail for going completely off on a pale white, butch police officer at the international terminal when Ross was about to board a plane to the States after a series of concerts and charity appearance.

Not aware of who Ross is [how could she not], the officer though Diana had a gun in her possession in what was actually her hair dryer. Ross didn't take too kindly to the officer for puttin' her dirty hands on her silk blouse and yanking her 24" double looped white pearls. Diana reflected back to her Detroit project days and slapped the shit out of the bitch. You could hear the sound in the next terminal it was reported. Kinda reminded you of when Diannah Carroll fucked up Joan Collins only recent face lift on Dynasty back in the 80's.

Ross was booked at the Airport's police headquarters and posted bail of roughly $25,000. Small change for the living legend and was ordered to return for Trial or she would be barred from performing again in the UK - a major source of her income for the hitless diva.

After wailing that she wanted to be with her children, Diana was released after spending 6 hours in the roach infested cell with several other international passengers. Diana hailed a taxi back to the Airport and shashayed into the terminal of the awaiting press and struck a pose of two with adoring fans and gracefully signed autographs.

Unfortunately, her troubles were not over. Our darlin Black Beauty went into another hissy fit and was yanked off her flight for going off on the stewardess because she wanted a window seat in First Class after the plane waited for her to stroll gracefully down the walkway to the awaitin' jet liner.

Diana reported that "women are subjected to these personal & degrading searches", after the white bitch was touching the Queen of Song in areas that was none of her business. Ross hopped on the Virgin Atlantic Airline, and cried to sleep on her way back to States.

Note: We may have embellished a bit on this story.

---

and in all things; we recognize and honor the connectness of all Humankind and Life; therefore, we pledge ourselves to the progressive development of Peace, Love and Understanding towards all of Life and one another on Earth and throughout the Universe in this life and all others to come.

The Society of Eu-men
The Eleven (11) Daily

Principles for Living

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3. Compassionate
4. Fastidious
5. Forgiving
6. Loving
7. Meditative
8. Peaceful
9. Prayerful
10. Responsible
11. Understanding

(Grounded in the Reality of Definity-Unity-Infinity)

My brothers, please remember, as you gaze from the microcosm unto the macrocosm, this is a United verse. Please e-mail your comments to Vaquinn@compuserve, should you have any. May Peace be with thee now my brother.

SOLE: MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

RED ZONE/DREAMWORKS RAPPER SOLE'S DEBUT DISC SKIN DEEP

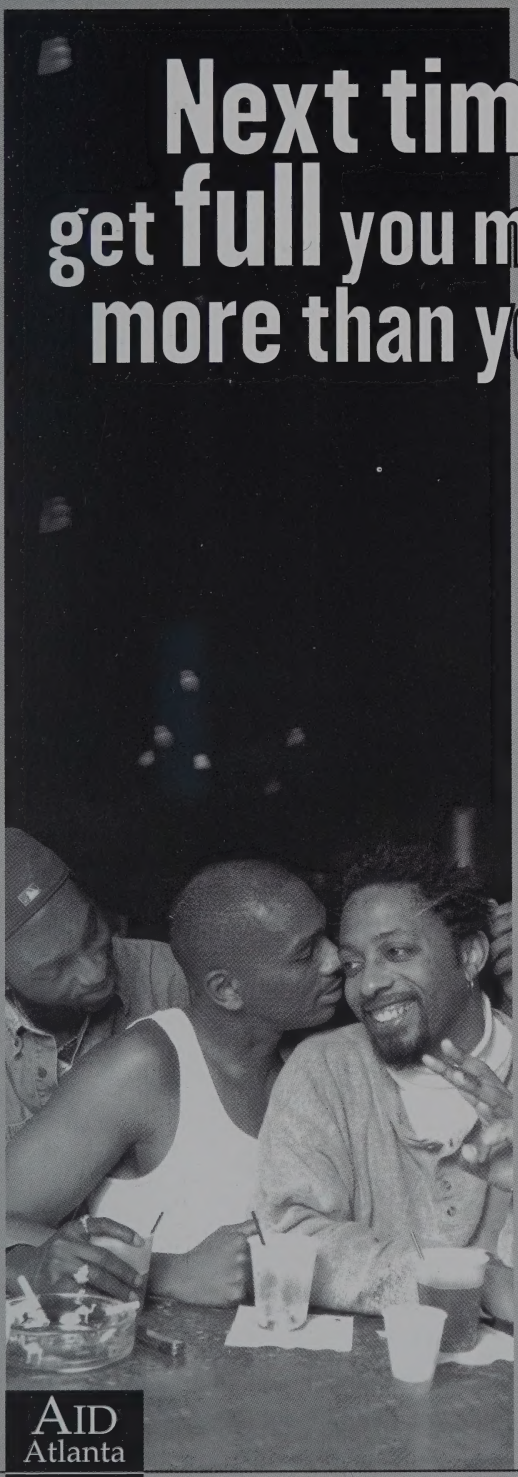
Straight off the sizzling success of **JT Money's** Top 5 Billboard Hot 100 hit "Who Dat" and featured on R&B trio **Before Dark's** single "Baby," rapper **SOLE's** debut disc **Skin Deep** dropped September 28 on Red Zone/ DreamWorks Records. Leading with the singles "I Yi Yi," and "4,5,6" SOLE's Skin Deep promises to be a Fall sizzler.

With her in-your-face lyrics and brusque style, SOLE's Skin Deep establishes her as a female rapper with real rapping and rhyming skills. Full of boast and swagger the underground hit "I Yi Yi," recalls "Who Dat" with its incessant chorus and Chris "Tricky" Stewart produced beats: "If you get dough, push benzos/Your neck, wrist and fist glow/You spit flows, your clique rolls/And ride with the red zone/ Say Iy Yi Yi, Iy Yl Yi." SOLE makes it clear that she's ready and willing to please her man on the disc's first single "4,5,6," with its accompanying racy **Gregory Dark** directed video. These cuts combined with buoyant party tracks ("Ain't Nobody," "Get Up In It"), vivid gangster narrative ("The Story"), emotional tales of ghetto love ("Our World") and heartbreak ("Pain," "4 tha Love of U," "Never Thought I") make Skin Deep a well rounded and welcome visit into SOLE's complex world of womanhood. In addition to Stewart, and other talented producers, Skin Deep also features guest appearances by **Montell Jordan**, **Goodie Mobb**'s **Bigg Gipp**, **Xscape**'s **Kandi Burruss**, **Tamar**, and **Tek 9**. **JT Money**'s "Who Dat" is also included as bonus track on the disc.

SOLE, a native of Kansas City, MO, knew she would one day be a performer and started on the road to stardom performing locally in talent shows as a half of the rap duo called Devine, ultimately opening for such rap acts as **EPMD, DJ Quik**, and **Whodini** when they performed in the area. But it was the decision to move to the musical talent pool of Atlanta after college that ultimately led SOLE to solo success, when she linked up with producer Chris "Tricky" Stewart (**JT Money, Tyrese, Blaque**) and his Red Zone Entertainment.

Take a listen as SOLE displays her style. It's more than Skin Deep.

Next time you get full you may lose more than your head.



You know condoms can lower your risk for HIV, right? Trick is, you've got to be able to use it. If you're too full to think straight you could make dangerous choices. To get more info or help, call AID Atlanta at 404.872.0600 and ask about the PARTY project.

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WANTED:
A Few Good Sissies

Though in a drunken stupor, she looked at me with such clarity, the way a mother does her child when contemplating the miracle of birth, as if I were a magnificent thing to behold. Then, perhaps to mark my legal entry into adulthood, in a loud, ghetto patio, she proclaimed, "I don't care if you suck dick or whatever it is you do, you is still my baby and I love you" Like early blueswomen of legend—poorly educated, deeply Southern, hip-shakin' and drankin'—my grandmother had an inimitable way of expressing herself . . . and an infinite capacity to love.

Amazingly, it seems my entire life an unending cadre of black women (my aunts, teachers, unknown women in the street) have loved and protected me, often defying their moral understanding of my shameless sissy ways. That I would mature from femme queen to feminist queen—to return that love—was a natural and logical progression in my adult development, one I envisioned many gay brothers duplicated.

However, when black lesbian-feminist Audre Lorde died in 1992, a memorial was held in her honor at Malcolm X College. Several hundred lesbian sisters attended and a horde of white lesbians as well. Yet, we brothers numbered less than a couple dozen. It was then that I first became aware of the serious disconnect between brothers and sisters in our community—and that black gay men (at least locally) might not be as feminist as I originally thought. Since then, I've noticed a continued lack of interest on the part of brothers in black feminist events (and ideas), and though I understand it, it is nevertheless problematic for purposes of community.

For the most part, we live in gender-separate, socio-political communities that interact on an infrequent basis. In fact, excluding mutual "homosexual issues," it's generally thought that a black lesbian-feminist agenda has little to do with brothers and a black gay male agenda has little to do with sisters. While sisters are often organizing around vast issues concerning breast cancer, domestic violence, and reproductive freedom, brothers are often creating supportive environments for black gay men living with HIV/AIDS, or working toward greater sexual freedom and better health via safer sex parties and AIDS education.

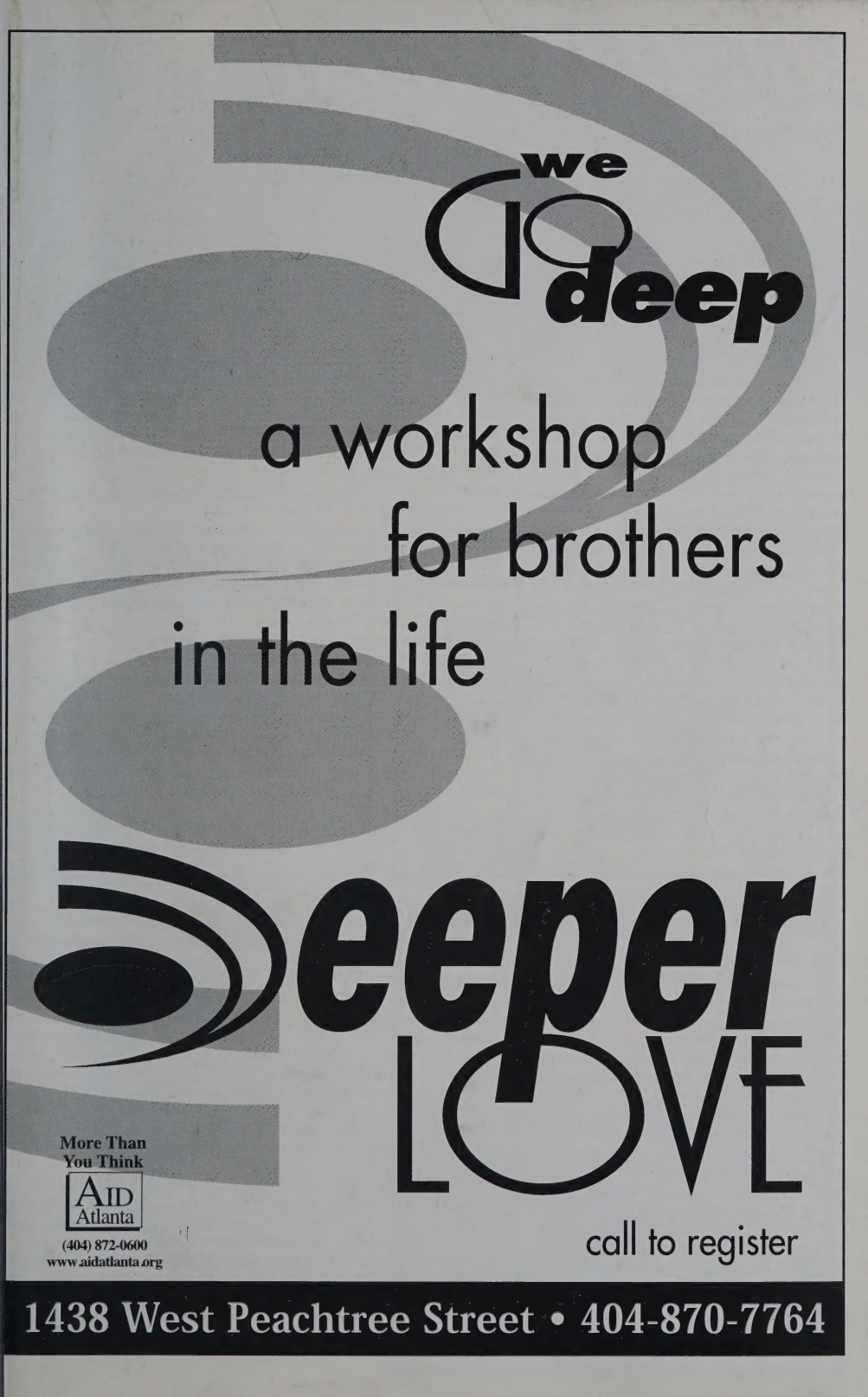
But because stronger black gay/lesbian community is a desired end, as black gay men, it is incumbent upon us to ask ourselves, "How can sisters really trust us if we are only willing to address the life-threatening issues they face as "dykes" but not as "the lesser sex?" And while there are certainly brothers around who are passively feminist (or anti-sexist in their thinking), perspective alone is not enough; an active engagement with sisters is still necessary. As gay men, we have access to male privilege which we often utilize. Therefore, we brothers must be the first ones to come correct and prove that we are not down with patriarchy, out of a concern for a unified movement.

Besides, more of us need to understand that feminism's aim is to dismantle sexism and misogyny which are not only cultural expressions of a disdain for women (especially "dykes"), but also a disdain of the feminine (in this case, "faggots"—men who "do" other men). In addition, black feminism not only furthers black female liberation, but also indirectly fortifies the black gay male struggle. By forcing a continuous rethinking of the female question (What is it to be a black woman?), black feminism also invites a rethinking of the male question (What is it to be a black man?), not only because of the dichotomous nature of American culture, but also because movements or influences each other.

Consider this: last summer, the Black Radical Congress convened thousands of activists and intellectuals across the spectrum of political ideology to plan strategy for the coming millennium. At the top of the agenda was a call, imposed by the organizers, to adopt a pro-feminist and pro-gay/lesbian position. Now, if straight brothers and sisters can make the necessary connections between multiple oppressions to forge a new black movement, then surely the need for new-age sissies to step forth and claim feminism, in the name of greater black gay/lesbian solidarity, can be met.

And really, even if we gay brothers had no reason to be feminists other than the fact that black women are (and have always been) our most fierce protectors, wouldn't that in itself be enough?

By Jean Pierre Campbell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Deliverance

by: Shurron Farmer - Washington, DC

Salvation is arguably the greatest gift God can bestow on a person. It is the testimony of many Christians that nothing in the world can ever compare to accepting and proclaiming the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin. Many of us have come to know the true value of Jesus' grace, mercy, and love; the things of the Holy Spirit which enable us to live with divine joy in our hearts and a God-given peace in our minds. In addition to freedom from sin, we as Christians come to realize that Christianity doesn't mean one will not make mistakes in one's walk through life after salvation. As Paul wrote in Romans 7:19-21, "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find a law that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." When one repents for one's mistakes or sins, one can praise God for the final phase of self-forgiveness and divine forgiveness-deliverance! One can praise God for deliverance from sin, evil or dangerous situations, destructive thoughts, and destructive people. I would like to share with you the knowledge has revealed to me about the delivered gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community He is building. There are three major areas God is using to build this community: fear, loneliness, and internal conflict.

The non-heterosexual community has a burden of fear on its shoulders. Although there has been some progress in the acceptance of non-heterosexuality by the rest of society, many gays and lesbians still fear the loss of job/career, family relationships, friendships, acceptance by society, or even their very lives because of their non-heterosexuality. Some homosexuals have a fear of not having stable romantic companionship as they get older; others have a fear of rejection. Some persons fear that success in life or love will be too much to deal with. God wishes for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people to be delivered from fear. 2 Timothy 1:7-8 states, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, not of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God." Being fearless shouldn't be equated with rebelliousness and being against all societal standards; being fearless leads to renewal of strength, humility, and courage. As GBLT persons, let us remember the strength God has already given us. It is this strength through which God can deliver us from fear. What is this strength being spoken of? Well, consider this: in spite of rejection of non-heterosexuality in many of society's institutions (e.g. the military, the families of some GLBT people, some churches attended by other GLBT people), many same gender loving people still praise God for the love, peace, joy, and blessings they receive from God.

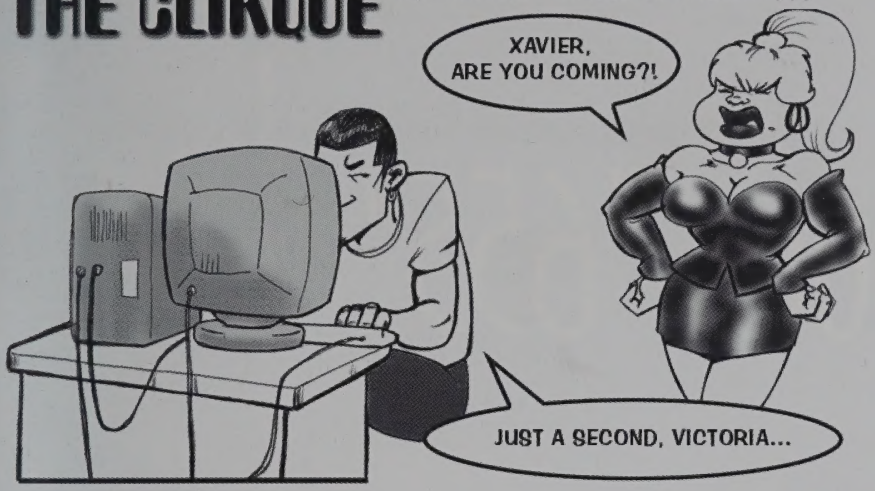
God will supply you with all you need (Philippians 4:19), and this includes internally and externally received love. By remembering that one is never alone, one can be delivered from loneliness. How many gay men go to cruising spots, sex parties, and bathhouses because of loneliness? How many GLBT persons will destroy themselves through words, thoughts, and deeds because they aren't in a romantic relationship even though they might have a nice body, a nice car, their own home/apartment, etc.? How many gays and lesbians continue to keep destructive friendships or romantic relationships because they do not wish to be alone? God wants us as non-heterosexuals to be in sweet communion with Him, and in this communion we can find self-completion, thereby being delivered from loneliness. Deliverance from loneliness leads to deliverance from desperation and to deliverance from fear of rejection.

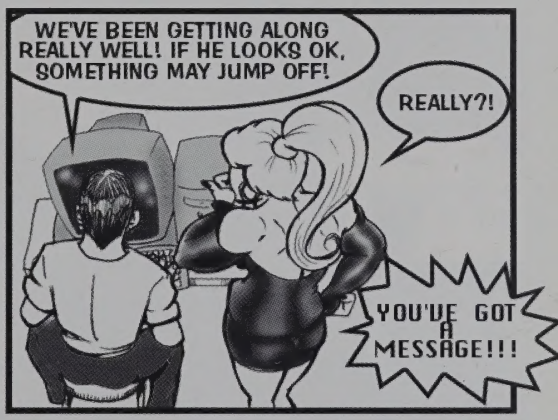
In order to continue make a real 'community' of GBLT people, Jesus wants to deliver gays and lesbians from the struggles within the community. Internal conflicts such as sexual proclivities, masculine men versus effeminate men, interracial dating, separation of men and women, rejection of female impersonators, societal acceptance, self-acceptance, violence, etc. have distracted the GLBT community from giving the term 'community' validity. If non-heterosexuals wish to end internal conflict in the community, then perhaps we should remember to strive for true brotherly love (Hebrews 13:1). Even if we do not agree on everything, we as gays and lesbians can still become one under the Spirit of the Lord (Ephesians 4:1-6). God wishes for us to be delivered from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16), and many of our internal conflicts can be traced back to a combination of these three concepts. To become one, we must unite with all of God's community, regardless of philosophy of life or sexuality. Then, as His people, the GLBT community can be a beacon of light to the rest of the society, and all of God's community can be a light for the rest of the world to see.

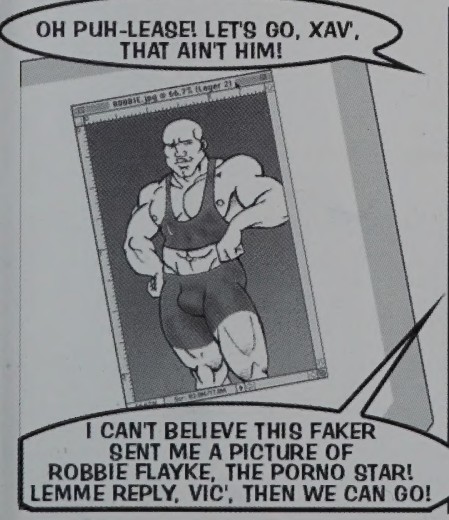
To conclude, we must never forget that all happens to us is due to God's will, purpose, and design on our lives. God tests us so that we may become stronger, and in deliverance from bad situations and issues we receive strength. Individually and as a community, let us pray to the Lord and ask Him to deliver us and strengthen us as GLBT people. Let us look to the Lord, and not man, for guidance. Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

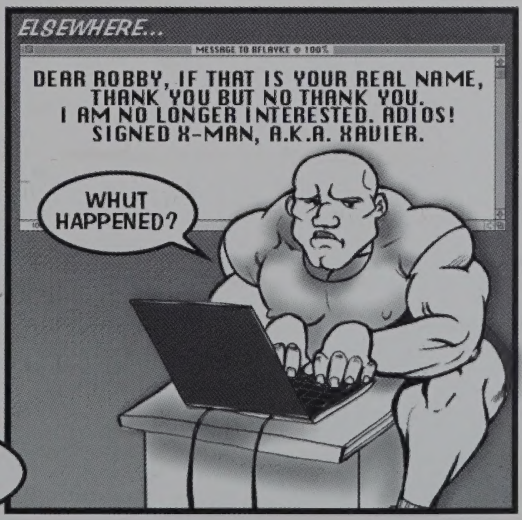
THE CLIKQUE

by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER©1999





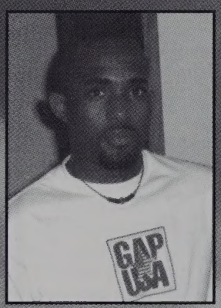

OH PUH-LEASE! LET'S GO, XAV', THAT AIN'T HIM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS FAKER SENT ME A PICTURE OF ROBBIE FLAYKE, THE PORNO STAR! LEMME REPLY, VIC', THEN WE CAN GO!


ELSEWHERE...
MESSAGE TO RFLAYKE @ 100%
DEAR ROBBY, IF THAT IS YOUR REAL NAME, THANK YOU BUT NO THANK YOU. I AM NO LONGER INTERESTED. ADIOS! SIGNED X-MAN, A.K.A. XAVIER.
WHUT HAPPENED?

Door "655"

by Queshan Hayes

Part IV



Transition: Okay, Atlanta, here it is again, "Door 655." I hope you all enjoyed last month's issue and had a safe and happy Labor Day. Anyway here it is, Part IV. Alright, last month you listened in on William's and Craig's late night phone call that revealed how their little encounter would be handled: Don't talk about it. It didn't happen. So William decides to ease his tension first, by himself, then with a female. Thus, you are then introduced to the hot and sexy Cicely who's coming over to help William forget his worries. To surprise her, William decides to greet her at the door in his birthday suit. But who shows up? You guessed it, Craig. The story picks up here.

And there was William and there stood Craig. William in all of his glory, cut, muscular, leaning to one side with an erection that pointed straight at Craig. Craig stood on the other side of the threshold with a nervous grin, some shorts, and some sport sandals—eyes locked on William's engorged, beautiful, chocolate stick. He could have sworn that he had subconsciously licked his lips.

"Oh shit," William said as he quickly closed the door. He didn't mean to slam it in Craig's face. It was a reflex. He then cracked it open just enough to stick his head through.

"Hey, man. Give me a minute, ahite?"

"Sure," Craig said, trying to hold back a smile that began to take over his face. William again closed the door and ran back into his bedroom to put on some shorts, all the while, Craig stood outside holding on to that once in a lifetime centerfold image of William standing there naked. All that Craig could whisper was, "Sweet Jesus!!" as he shook his head. He stood there for a moment with his arms crossed, knowing that he now had an image to use for later solitary activities. In a matter of seconds, William was back at the door.

"Umm, come in man," he said as he opened the door wider to let Craig pass thru. He walked in an stood by the couch where all of this had started. William slowly closed the door as he thought to himself, "Ohhh shit.."

"Look, William..." Craig began. "I just couldn't sleep..I..don't know where to begin and I don't know what to say. I just wanted...I just needed.. to..to.. come and talk to you."

"Hey Craig...um...why don't you have a seat, man."

"OOOOh no!...Ohh no...That's how this shit got started. I'm just gonna stand right here. Yeahhh, just stand right here until we get this handled."

"Ahite man, suit yourself," William said as he leaned against his door. He stood there looking at Craig, his head bare-

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

ly raised, his eyes like an innocent lamb. Then, there was that silence again.

"William, I know that a lot has happened in the past couple of hours, but we can handle this, right?" William stood there and thought for a few seconds. Then, as calm as a breeze, he said, "What are you talking about, Craig?"

"What am I talking about?!! What am I talking about?!! You know what the hell I'm talking about," Craig exploded.

"Calm down Craig. I'm not yelling, so I would appreciate it if you didn't yell at me," William said as he switched positions to lean his back against the door and fold his arms.

"I've got neighbors and I don't need you waking them up."

"Fuck you and fuck your fucking neighbors, William."

"Come on Craig. You need to really calm down man or leave,,"

"Or what? You gonna kick me out? Or beat my ass. What?!!"

"Craig, come on, man. It's not that serious. I'm just saying maybe you need to go back upstairs, calm down, and come back and talk to me like an adult."

"An adult?! An adult?! An adult would face the facts. An adult would realize that he can't use alcohol as a fucking scapegoat. An adult would realize that he's a fucking faggot!!" And with those words, the whole atmosphere changed. The temperature in the room rose, heartbeats pounded so loudly that the walls shook. Then there was William's expression. No longer an innocent lamb. No, it was pure evil. His forehead revealed a vein that danced across his entire head. He squinted his eyes and inhaled deeply. His once loosely folded arms, turned into bars of steel with two tensed fists at both ends.

"What the fuck did you say?" Silence.... "What...in the fuck...did you say, Craig?" William repeated. Craig had noticed the change in William. So he felt that it was in his best interest to remain silent. So he stood there, breathing, chest still heaving from his prior yelling. Then William snapped. He just snapped. No longer leaning on the door. No longer innocent eyes of a lamb. No longer William. Now, just inches away from Craig's nose. Now, with eyes of the devil himself. Now, some creature from the gates of hell, his wrath unleashed.

"What in the fuck did you say? Who in the fuck do you think you are? Coming down here telling me you know who the fuck I am? Huh?...Huh?.. You don't know me. You come into my fucking house and tell me some lame ass shit like this. Yeah. Yeah, I did it. I rubbed dicks with yo' ass. Shit, I ain't denying that. But I ain't no fucking faggot!! You hear me? Do you hear me?" he said while pointing his finger into Craig's chest. Craig had heard every word. William's rampage had put fear in his heart that he had never experienced.

"Now, you can say what ever the fuck you wanna say, but you ain't gonna call me no faggot in my own house! Look at me!! Look at me!! I'm a fucking man, nigga!! I play sports, I watch sports, I play basketball every fucking day with other men. I like pussy, nigga! Pussy!!! I got a fucking dick!! And I'm a fucking man!!... You know what? Get the fuck out!!" he said as he pushed Craig a little too hard. Craig lost his balance and fell onto the couch. Now, there were two things that Craig would not stand for. Liars made his blood boil and negative physical contact made his adrenaline bubble. And William had just crossed one of those lines. In one swift movement, Craig was back on his feet and all in William's face.

"What, because you're a man, you think you can push me around?

"Hey man, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to push you down," he said, genuinely sorry. He reached out to grab Craig's arms.

"Get your hands off me!!!" Craig said as he pushed William's hands away.

"Just because I like men makes me less of a man than you think you are? Huh?"

"Come on Craig, let's just drop it!"

"No!...No, William We are both men! And that's something you will never accept! I'm a fucking man, too!"

"I never said that you weren't, man I was just letting

you know that I wasn't a fucking faggot. I know you are a man, Craig. I know. I know. I'm sorry if I made you feel any less. I'm really sorry that I pushed you down," William pleaded. Craig, still breathing heavily, accepted William's apology. Feelings began to calm and they seemed to be talking like adults now. William realized that Craig was truly a man. And Craig realized that he had disrespected William with a word he himself hated and swore that he would never use.

"Come on, man. It's not all that serious," William said as he stepped back.

"So what is it, William?" asked Craig. And out of nowhere, William closed his eyes and shook his head.

"I don't know, man. I just don't know...I mean...I.. tried. I tried to....I wanted to...I....," And slowly, tears began to stream down William's beautiful face. Craig's heart immediately became heavy. He wanted to reach out to William, but he didn't know if he should. "Fuck it," he thought as he slowly reached out and put his hand on William's right shoulder.

"Come on, man. Talk to me," Craig pleaded.

"Man, it's just so...so..fucked up. My mom...I mean they didn't know..."

"Know what William? What?!"

"My Uncle Wes...He...He.." And it immediately hit Craig like a load of bricks why William had called out his Uncle's name during their incident.

Continues on Page 72

TransForum

Monthly Column For Our Transgendered Community

Welcome back! I hope that the last trip we took together was pleasurable, I know it was for me. This time around I want to discuss a real sensitive issue for a lot of people... Conformity. How and why we as transsexuals feel the need to do it. Why we as Gays and Lesbians feel we have to do it... conform that is.

For so long society, and sometimes even people close to us have been trying to place us in a closed box, or closet if you will. When that didn't work and the closet doors swung open, they tried to stigmatize and categorize us. Gay, Lesbian then came the "safe" word "Bisexual-, and then finally Transgendered. In comparison it sounds...well... weird. What's next?

There are individuals among us in the trans community, and the Gay community for that matter that don't "fit" into any of those labels. Call me Lisa Lost, but is a label not something you put on a can good, bottle of shampoo, or box of crackers? A label was meant to describe the contents to be found on the inside of the package. You all get where I'm going? So instead we conform. Be it for the sake of pleasing Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa, School, employers or our significant others. Conformity is blatant discomfort and I am so thankful that I never really had to travel that lonely road. However for the trans community as a whole having to conform is a living hell. Take for instance a dear friend of mine, (now living as a woman), conformity was almost tragic for her. Once she decided that she would start the transformation she still continued to "hide" and conform to the ways of her parent's household and their beliefs. She slicked her hair back to hide it's length. She even strapped her new breasts down with ace bandages and undersized sportsbras. All for what? Why do we make the change anyway if not to celebrate the rebirth of ourselves. I personally would never alter my body for the sake of someone else's gratification. If you allow people to mold you into who they want you to be then who will you become? In most cases what you become is a carbon copy. I, myself prefer an original.

When it's all said and done the way you feel about yourself has a lot to do with the amount of respect you receive from others. No matter what has happened in the past we should take a stand to renew ourselves right now. Conformity is something we should never succumb to. Who are we really trying to please anyway, if not ourselves. Why the constant quest for the ideal? Well if you want my opinion, we will never achieve the ideal because it is false, an illusion created with smoke and mirrors, (Maybeline), lights, cameras and photo retouching. We will never be truly at peace with ourselves until we can make peace with our limitations. In the meantime conformity is not the answer.

Before I close this time around I would like to take the time out to say thank-you to ali who read this column every month. I hope it has addressed some of your needs. I also hope that you will continue to look here for advice, wisdom, thought and perspective, for the mere act of writing this column is absolute therapy for me. I would also like to give an overdue "shout-out" to some of my favorite girls of the stage: The Mother of Atlanta- Niesha Dupree, my sister-Jasmine Kelley, The Lady Jonel, Milan Sanchez, The Lady Fabian Sanchez, Tina Cocina Devore, Paula Sinclair,

Jasmine Bonet- were you ever really a man?, Raquel Lord- my favorite Miss Black Universe, Racine Scott- The most notorius Miss Black Universe, Stasha Sanchez- no formal introduction needed, Tommie Ross- What pageant haven't you won?, P. Jazzmun Darnell, Ashley Iman-of Houston, Jennifer St. John, BASIA- I don't care what they say, she will always be the one, A'SZIA- you better work girl cause nobody saw you coming, now the sky is the limit, the late Mishon Black-truly blessed, Sasha Valentino of Chicago- the future Miss Continental, Mirage Alexandria- you are really going places, Necole Luv Dupree- entertainer extraordinare, Sophia McIntosh- you really are home, and always on cue, Chevon Scott- we go way back, Dorae Saunders-of Columbia,S.C.- always great entertainment, and if I missed anyone just know that you were merely overlooked but not forgotten. Have a great month.

Until next time.

Dorian Kelley-Jahman

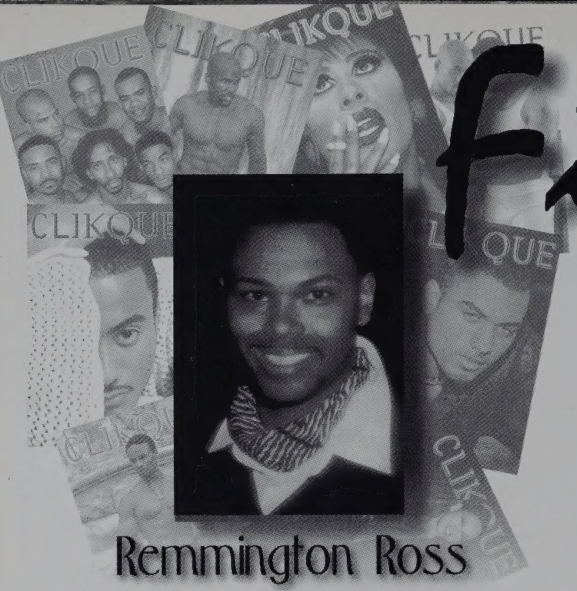
TRAXX

MONDAY WITH THE STARS OF THE CENTURY

Show hosted by the Hilarious Sophia McIntosh & her witty side kick Dominique Rashad. Starring : Necole Luv Dupree, R'Darius Black, Stasha Sanchez, Sophia McIntosh, The Mother of Atlanta - Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Dominique Rashad, Mr. Black Universe - Monté St. James, Miss Black Universe - Raquel Lord and a host of special guests.

Professional Elevated Stage, Two-way Screen Monitor, Intelligent Stage & Club Lighting, Quality Sound System, Creative Set Design, and Theatre Style Seating. Main Show at 1AM , Mini Show at 11PM

Drink Specials



Fierce

The Column

Remmington Ross

The Prince Of Pageantry

Faster than a speeding bullet more powerful than a locomotive able to leap tall drag queens in a single hop. No it's not a bird and most definitely not a plane, it's simply The "Fierce" Column coming your way inside the Clikque again.

Greetings contestants, readers,& patrons of pageant entertainment I would like to thank Atlanta's **Natalia Scott Dupree** for being the author of that gracious introduction. When I am attending a pageant I will be in "Crownscope" mode.

Congratulations to **Onyx Onassis and Porsche Paris,** winners of the recent Mr. & Miss Rascals Pageant which was held in Houston. We are confident that you will do well at Universe later this month. Good luck from the entire staff of Clikque Magazine.

I celebrated my birthday with a party at incognito the club on September the 18th. **Tommie Ross, Paris Frantz**, and Miss Black America'99 **Yosmein Cambell Starr** headlined as guest performers along with The Essence Pageantry System reigning court and my children **Diamond Frantz**, **Leah Halston, Jacobie Ross, Trevon Ross, Dynasty Escada Ross,** & **Kenna Ross**. The "Mouth of the South" **Cookie LaCook** was very nice due to my blood family bein in attendance. Even Miss Black Texas **Alfredda Payne** (a former Miss Essence) was spectator at the "Black and Gold Affair". **Black Stylez Entertainment** also was on hand to video for the occassion. I would like to thank Yosmein C. Starr for being a positive national figure, **Elliott Productions, Clikque Magazine, Rande Rochelle**, and **Incognito** and its staff for assisting me with their support at the Gala.

Crownscoping in Chicago, IL. September 4-6, I along with **Bruce Chivers,** CEO of Elliott Productions and **Tony Lane,** President of Essence Pageantry attended the **Miss Continental Pageant**. The weather was warm and we had a nice view from our Days Inn Lakeshore Hotel. According to **Ginger Grant** (former Miss Continental Plus & Contest coordinator) there were only thirty-seven (37)contestants left by the time preliminaries started Sunday night.

On the final night the top thirteen were called. Usually a standard of a top twelve is selected to be finalist. As "Fierce" predicted **Silky O'hara Monroe**, **Tommie Ross, Alexis Gabrielle Sherrington**, and **Sasha Valentino** made their presence known. Also answering the top thirteen rolecall were **Amelia Black** and **Fantasia. Revlon Lord** also made a lasting impression as she 'burnt the building' in talent. Everyone in attendance can say that this years event was very entertaining and good competition.

As the pageant owner **Mr. Jim Flint** began to announce the results of the nineteenth annual contest the entire audience was silent and my thoughts were evaluating on how I felt the decisions would be. The balcony occupants appeared to be on pins and needles as the first name of Fourth runner-up was appointed to Sasha Valentino (a former Miss Black Universe). **Michelle Mitchell** was given third runner-up, **Courtney Van Wales** who was the preliminary winner with her illusion of Madonna in talent was elevated to second runner-up. **Floridian Erica Norrell** was announced as first alternate. A former Miss USA, Miss Gay National, Miss Gay World, And Miss Liberty International was crowned Miss Continental.Her name is "The incomperable" **Tommie Ross**.

Miss Liberty International 99 **Aszia** was on hand for pleasant conversation. Paris Frantz also a sweetheart was in attendance with her informative views. **Candy Wilson** of Savannah, Georgia and owner of Mr&Miss National Sweetheart joined us for brunch. "Fierce" caught up with **Niesha Dupree** the Mother of ATL and my godmother viewing the pageant from the balcony during prelims. I greeted **Joe Jackson** and **Tim Bolhart** near the bar as they were enjoying the competition. Tasha Long was a guest entertainer this year with her 'three diva mix'. Tony lane and Bruce Chivers were very pleased with the professionalism of the exhibition. We would also like to thank a former Mr. Liberty

International **Johnny Thomas** for being a wonderful chaperone.

Next month we will focus on the Black Universe pageant in Atlanta. "Fierce" feels that **Jasmine Bonet** and **Necole Luv Dupree** will make their presence known. **Al Dupree** and **Terrence D'Andre** will also be well prepared for the battle. Good luck guys!

Keith Kennard owner of The Black USA System is also getting ready for his 7th year of being a national. The contest will be on December 18th at **Club Colours** in Richmond, Virginia.

Coming along in a very positive way, is the Miss Clikque America Pageantry System. On October 8th, the Miss Clikque New Orleans Prelim will be held at Rubyfruit Jungle and once again it will set standards just like the past two prelims in Houston and Atlanta. **If any one's interested in owning a prelim in Chicago, Detroit, New York City, Philadelphia, & Richmond, VA to Miss Clikque America please call Nestor here at Clikque and he will assist you.**

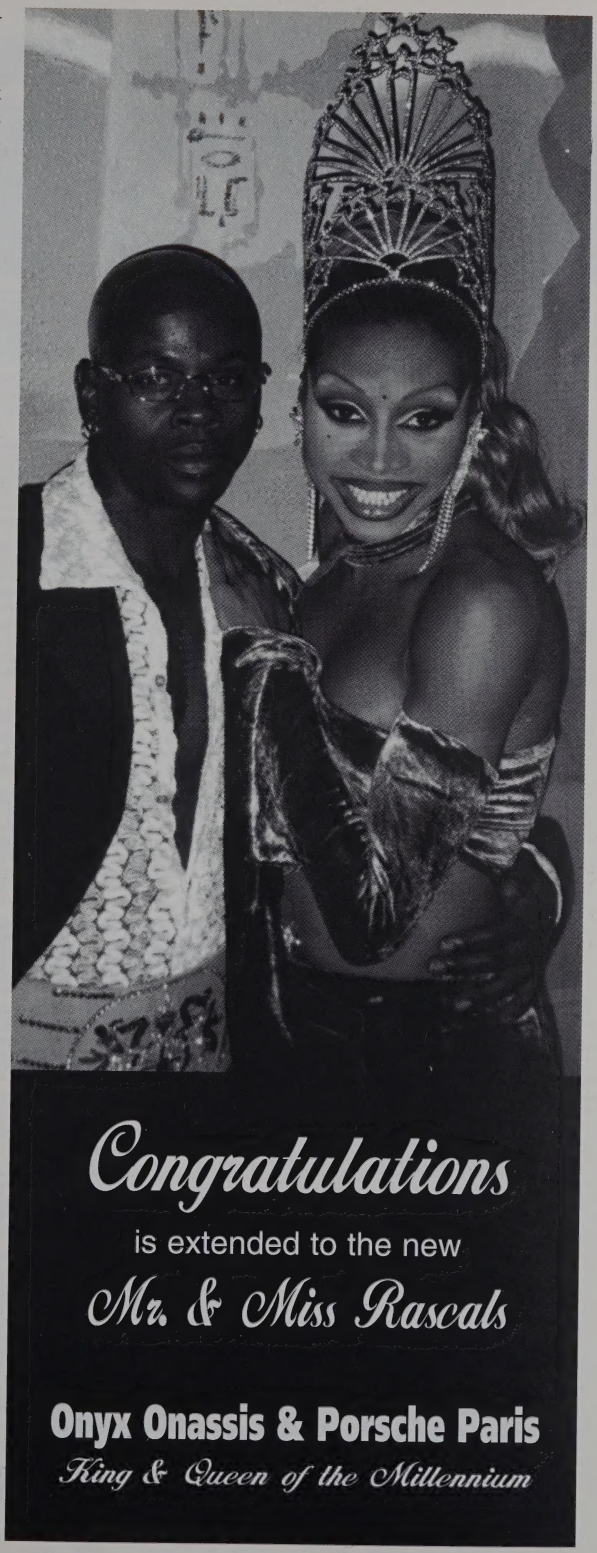
Thank you **Lady Jonel** & **JJ Productions** for your support. I will recommend female contestants to participate in your contest.

Thank you **Dwight Powell** for inviting me to display my literary and informative talents with Clikque Magazine and making me a part of a positive national forum.

I am available to judge your pageant, coordinate, or cover your events just let me know at least three weeks in advance.

On a sad note, during one's life you meet few people whom you can call a friend. I attended the homegoing services for the CEO of **Bam Boo Productions** and the owner of The Esscentric **Miss Globe Pageant**. **T. Armoni Sloan** will deeply be missed. We at Clikque Magazine would like to commend her for following her dreams. She made contributions to the magazine, the community and her peers. Sloan was the owner of Miss Black Texas Universe & Mid-America Universe just to name a few. I personally thank her for being an acquaintance of mine. Those that knew her will always remember her sense of humor, frankness, and generosity.

Until next time,
Remmington signing out.



6366
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Call one of the numbers above and place a **FREE PERSONAL AD** that will print in next months issue of Clikque Magazine. Adults 18+ Only.

Clikque Connection — Men Seeking Men

CALIFORNIA

SHOW ME THE ROPES Handsome SM, 37, 6'0", 200 lbs., enjoys rock climbing, sailing. Seeking SM to have adventures with. ☎20016

LET'S HOOK UP GWM, 45, 5'11", 180 lbs, 5'11", looking for other GWM to get together with. Race unimportant. (Santa Anna) ☎21469

BOTTOM LOOKING FORA TOP If you're serious and looking for a good time, leave me a message. Call me soon, I really need a hot top. (San Francisco) ☎14537

SHOW ME SOMETHING NEW Mexican-German M, looking for a friend to have fun with. I'm kind of shy and need someone to show me the ropes. If you're interested in showing some new ways to have fun, give me a call. (San Diego) ☎18549

LET'S HOOK UP SBM, 6'0", enjoys working out. Seeking someone special. (Los Angeles) ☎10037

MANIC PASSIONATE Heavy-set Mexican-American M, mid 30s, moderately hairy, beard, easygoing, laid-back, responsible, good-hearted and a romantic. Looking for muscular-stocky Latino/WM, late 20s-late 40s, with a good sense of humor. Muscular legs and hairy a plus. (Los Angeles) ☎17427

JUST ASK If you want a submissive, feminine M, who will do anything your heart desires, call me. (Victorville) ☎10798

I LOVE LATINOS Young, nice-looking GBM, new to the area, seeking Latino/HM, 18-24, with a respectable attitude. No Games. (Torrance) ☎15504

FLORIDA

FUN AND MORE Very attractive, bottom, 5'11", 170 lbs, brown/blue, goatee, swimmers build, available for fun and recreation with top and versatile tops. (Gainesville) ☎17758

COOL SOUTH AFRICAN BROTHER BM, 32, 5'6", brown-skinned, hairy chest, looking to meet a very attractive top Guys, 23+, to hook up with. (Miami) ☎17779

BE MY GIRL 27-year-old BM, looking for TV/TS, who want to have a good time with me. Give me a call. (Jacksonville) ☎19173

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR 50-year-old GM, college-educated, looking for young, attractive, hairy WM, for possible romance. ☎14006

GEORGIA

IS THIS YOU? Jay would like to meet an out-going, sensitive, honest SM, who wants to have alot of fun. (Atlanta) ☎21956

LOW-KEY GUY Good-looking, in shape, 38-year-old GWM, 5'9", 165 lbs., stable, n/drugs, varied interests. Seeking SM for dating, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎21781

SEEKING SIMILAR BM Very masculine BM, 5'7", 150 lbs, attractive, muscular and looking for a muscular, masculine BM, for friendship and possibly more. (Atlanta) ☎21586

MUST BE DISCREET Looking for a straight-acting brother for friendship and possible relationship. If you're down with that, leave me a message. Peace. (Atlanta) ☎20181

ISO A LIGHT-SKINNED BROTHER Black/Filipino/Puerto Rican M, 21, 5'4", 130 lbs, blonde/brown, looking for a light-skinned brother, 21-28, who's tall and built with a gorgeous body. ☎19400

I'M ALL THAT Very romantic BM, 5'7", medium brown, likes movies, hiking and walks in the park. Looking for a BM, 18-30, to hook up with. No fats and no femmes. (Atlanta) ☎17447

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP Looking for a nice, fun-loving Guy who loves dining out, movies and long walks. If this is you, give me a call. (Decatur) ☎13272

GOOD TIMES 23-year-old BM, very masculine, works outs and looking for good times with exciting people. (Atlanta) ☎19510

NO GAME PLAYERS Married, down-to-earth BM, 5'10", slim, D/D free. Seeking nice, out-going BM, 26-35, no games. (Atlanta) ☎19884

I'LL BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND 29-year-old, passable BCD, 5'9", 160 lbs, pecan-tanned, clean, discreet, ISO a secure Gentleman who knows what he wants and who has a sensitive side. (Savannah) ☎18756

JUST HAVING FUN 39-year-old dark-skinned BM, looking for Guys, around my age, to hang out and have fun with. (Georgia) ☎17612

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT Straight-acting, Married WM, 30s, 6'1", 210 lbs, long brown hair, hairy chest, seeking a passive BiM, who likes X-rated videos and exploring. (Atlanta) ☎17748

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 lbs, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth Latino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick it with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, leave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

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the clikque connection

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

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ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

I NEED IT REAL BAD Bi-curious BM, looking for someone to teach what this is like. Can you teach me? (Savannah) ☎20427

SKIN TO SKIN CONTACT Straight-acting Married M, 6'1", 200 lbs, long brown/blue, seeking slender, well-endowed BiM, who likes giving and receiving, oral and anal. Discretion expected and assured. Race unimportant. (Atlanta) ☎19150

ILLINOIS

NEED A HUG? Tall, masculine WM, seeking tall, masculine BM, with an insatiable desire to hug and be hugged. (Chicago) %21737

LOOKS UNIMPORTANT Smooth, well-endowed GWM, 27, 180 lbs, 5'10", black/blue, likes sports, movies, dining gout, going out and having fun. Looking for a Latino/WM, 20-30, for friendship or possible long-term relationship. Nonsmoker and social drinker referred. (Chicago) ☎20105

I LOVE DRESSING UP Very hot, sexy CD in Chicago, looking for someone to play with and have fun with in the area. Leave me a message, I promise I'll call you back. (Chicago) ☎13469

TOP SEEKS BOTTOMS Dominant WM, 45, well-endowed, attractive, looking for smooth, submissive bottoms. Race unimportant. ☎13324

MICHIGAN

SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT? Nice-looking BM, looking for a good-looking BM, 22-42, 5'8"-6', to hang out with and possibly start a relationship. Let's get together and get to know each other. (Detroit) ☎11266

I'LL DO ANYTHING Good-looking BM looking for a hardcore Man who likes to do anything. If you're interested, call me up and we'll get together. (Detroit) ☎19650

NEW YORK

I LIKE LOTS OF THINGS 37-year-old M, really into oral and likes lots of things. Looking for an older Guy, 40-55, who would be interested in getting together with me. (New York) ☎19264

EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE Very active, good-natured, retired, daddy type, who wants to enjoy the rest of his life with a couple of young Guys. Must be W/H, 20s, 6'+, good-looking, reliable, health conscious, into working out and have six pack abs. (New York) ☎17556

TENNESSEE

BORING GUY? 26-year-old BM, 5'11", 184 lbs., dredlocks, brown eyes, enjoys cooking, reading, running, cleaning, employed, dogs. If interested, leave a message. (Memphis) ☎21869

LET'S CHILL Sexy, brown-skinned BM, 6'1", 150 lbs. Seeking SM, for friendship, possibly more. (Memphis) ☎10531

JUST FUN 35-year-old WM, brown/blue, tanned, toned and looking to meet a BM, 21-35, in the Memphis area, for a no strings, hot, sexual relationship. (Memphis) ☎21822

TEXAS

NOT A SEX AD! 42-year-old GBM, 5'11", average-looking big Guy with a great personality, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times. Seeking SM sincere, genuine to form a monogamous relationship. No games (Dallas) ☎21673

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

SKIN TIGHT LEVIS Professional swimmer, 5'8", 140 lbs, tanned, muscular, shaved, looking for a down-to-earth Guy, who likes swimming, working out, music, having fun and a lot of body contact. (Dallas) ☎21475

IS THAT YOU? Young BM, 5'8", heavy -set, brown/brown, looking for that special someone to share life with. (Houston) ☎19892

TRYING TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE BM, 21, 5'9", 160 lbs, smooth, slender build, very attractive, masculine and outgoing, looking for some cool people to hang with. Not really looking for a sexual relationship, right now, just friendship. ☎19913

BI GUY PREFERRED BM, 25, 5'5", 140 lbs, nice body, looking for a mature BIM, 30-50. No fats and no femmes. (Houston) ☎12765

POSSIBLITIES Bottom GHM, 37, smoker, drinker who loves to please his partner. Looking for a top W/HM. If you would love to start a new friendship with the possibility of a long-term relationship. ☎21406

HIT ME UP! 21-year-old BM, 5'9", 145 lbs, attractive, sexy and toned. Seeking a masculine, muscular, attractive Latino/BM who want to get with me. ☎20366

Clikque Connection Women Seeking Women

CALIFORNIA

LET'S HANG OUT GBF, 36, 5'7", 155 lbs., enjoys reading, walks, outdoors. Seeking SF who can give their time, must like to have fun, friends first. (Los Angeles) ☎22011

NEW TO THE AREA African-American Female, 33, two children. Seeking SF, 40+, preferably White, no ex-cons, 12-steppers, smokers, druggies, heavy drinkers or hang ups, must be positive and like children. (Los Angeles) ☎21948

I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU 37-year-old, feminine F, 5'3", brown/brown, Looking for a very open-minded, down-to-earth H/AF who like dining out, playing pool, dancing, movies, bowling and having a good time. All calls returned. ☎20711

ELECTIVE FEMME Very sensitive, spiritual African-American Woman, 40-ish, 5'9", vegetarian, loves film, drama, jazz, visual arts, the environment, walks by the ocean and nature. Looking for a vegetarian, feminine, spiritual, artistic Woman of color, who's independent and has similar interests. ☎18670

IS THIS YOU? Then call this sexy, assertive Femme, stable, loving, compassionate, drug-free, healthy, n/s, seeking sensitive Butch Woman, to share life with me, must love animals, must be sensitive, drug-free. (San Diego) ☎21620

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED 36-year-old PF, 5'6", 135 lbs, attractive, athletic, likes going out, walking, movies and romantic evenings at home. Seeking the same in a compatible Woman. If you're interested, give me a call. (Los Angeles) ☎19793

GEORGIA

BE REAL 30-year-old GBF seeking a real friend 25-35, great sense of humor, out-going, honest, for friendship, possible relationship. (Jonesboro) ☎21686

CALL ME SBF, enjoys movies, the beach, outings and watching tv. Looking for someone who's friendly, fun, open-minded and into travel. If you're looking for friendship and fun times, then call me. ☎11588

TURN ME ON Attractive, attached BiWF, 25, 5'2", 152 lbs, reddish-brown, looking for another Woman, 18-30, in the area to get together and explore new experiences. (Norcross) ☎19604

FEMALE BONDING 37-year-old Lesbian, looking for a proud, sincere, fit, feminine Lady who loves life, travel and spending time with someone special. I look forward to hearing from you. (Atlanta) ☎15429

ILLINOIS

ENJOY THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE? Affectionate, feminine, SBGF 23, 5'7", shapely but full-figured. Seeking SGF who enjoys the finer things in life. (Chicago) ☎21791

TENNESSEE

FRIENDSHIP FIRST SBF, looking for another BF to explore another side of life. This is my first time, so please be gentle. (Memphis) ☎14363

MY FAVORITE THINGS 27-year-old, feminine GBF, looking for GF for long walks, midnight talks and romantic evenings under the sunset. (Memphis) ☎21155

TEXAS

LICKABLE BiBF, 5'6", 140lbs, looking for a F to talk to and have a relationship with. (Houston) ☎20150

VIRGINIA

HELLO NURSE! 27-year-old BF, with three children, looking for a nice Lady who likes dining out, reading and having a nice time, for friendship and possible relationship. ☎16652

STEPPINGOUT

YOUR PREMIERE GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below.

ATLANTA, GA

BACKSTREET ATLANTA
845 Peachtree Street (Rear Entrance) 404-873-1986. Always Open & Pouring. Membership Required * Membership Available. Hip-Hop Tuesdays w/DJ Biff

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025. Blackest on Fri. & Sat.

CLUB FUSION
550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR
W. Peachtree & 15th St., 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

THE MARQUETTE LOUNGE
809 Martin Luther King Dr. NW

THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THELMA'S PUMP ROOM
836 Juniper, 404-881-9230. Black on Friday Nights for the Best in Female Impersonation.

TRAXX NIGHTCLUB
306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422
Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays Nights Hip-Hop Dance Floor, House & Classics.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

LATROYS
316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE, NC

300 STONEWALL
300 E. Stonewall (at S. Blvd.), 704-347-4200

CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566

CLEVELAND, OH

DOMINOS
612 Prospect Ave 216-771-9020.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS
2909 Detroit Av., 216-574-2203. Black on Fri. & Saturdays

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

CLUB ENVY 216 N. Crowdus, 214-742-2708.

DENVER, CO

RAVEN 2217 Welton Street, Fridays & Saturdays

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

ZIPPERS
6221 E. Davison, 313-892-8120

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

GREENSBORO, NC

BABYLON 221 S. Elm Street, 336-275-1006.

GREENVILLE, SC

CLUB NEW ATTITUDE
706 W. Washington St., 864-233-1387

HOUSTON, TX

INCOGNITO- THE CLUB
2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS THE NIGHTCLUB
1318 Westheimer, 713-942-CLUB. Mostly Black Thursdays - Sundays from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS
200 N. Mills St., Downtown, 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

LOS ANGELES, CA

BOYTRADE-EL REY 5525 Wilshire Blvd.

CATCH ONE
4067 W. Pico Blvd., 213-737-1159. Blackest on Saturdays

STUDY
1723 N. Western Ave., 213-464-9551. Watering hole- Black Owned

MEMPHIS, TN

N-COGNITO 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MIAMI/FT. LAUD., FL

LA CAUGE 7900 First Ave. NE, Miami

COPA NIGHTCLUB
2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

CASABLANCA
Hallendale Beach - Off I-95 954-454-8400. Thurday Night all Black, Male Dancers

SUGAR'S
17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday

WATERFRONT
36th Street near Airport., Miami, 305-635-5696. Blackest on Tuesdays

NASHVILLE, TN

THE CONNECTION
901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

THE CHUTE COMPLEX
2535 Franklin Road, 615-297-4571 Blackest on Wednesdays

THE GASLITE
167 1/2 8th Ave.,615-254-1278

THE JUNGLE
306 4th Ave. South, 615-256-9411

NEW ORLEANS, LA

OZ
800 Bourbon Street, 504-593-9491. Opens 24-7.

WOLFENDALE'S
834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

NEW YORK, NY

CLIT CLUB
432 W. 14th St., 212-406-1114. Fridays only Women.

CLUB HOUSE
215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays.

CLUB DOWNTIME
251 W. 30th St. (Between 7th & 8th Ave.) 212-591-1622. Friday Nights for Women Only.

ESCUELITA
301 West 39th St. (Corner of 8th Ave.) 212-631-0588. Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

MANHATTAN MONSTER
30 Grove St., New York, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT
1 Front St., Brooklyn, 718-852-0139.

THE OCTAGON
555 W. 33rd St., New York, 212-947-0400.

THE WAREHOUSE
141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

NEWARK, NJ

MURPHY'S TAVERN
59 Edison Pl., 973-622-9176.

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT
120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

CABEL'S REEF
2272 Telegraph Ave.,510-451-3777. Black dancing Fridays & Saturdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA, FL

CHERAKEE CLUB
1320 E. 9th Ave. 813-247-9966, Tampa, FL. Blackest Fridays

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

PHOENIX, AZ

INCOGNITO
2424 E. Thomas Rd., 602-955-9805. Blackest Friday & Saturday after hours.

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS
536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmond's African-American Club of True Diversity.

RUMOURS II
1008 North Blvd.,804-358-3838

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

THE ENDUP
401 6th St. 415-357-0827. Blackest Sunday afternoon.

THE BOX
628 Divisidaro, 415-647-8258. Multicultural

CLUB Q
177 Townsend St., 415-647-8258. First Friday of Month. Women's Party

TALLAHASSEE, FL

CLUB PARK AVENUE
115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

BROTHERS
926 West Tharpe Street, 850-386-2399. Black Nights-Fridays & Saturdays.

WASHINGTON, DC

BACHELOR'S MILL
1104 8th St. S.E., 202-544-1931.Black Men Dancing Thursday thru Saturday.

CLUB DIVERSITE
1526 14th St. N.W., 202-387-2338.

CLUB SECRETS @ 2:K:9
2009 8th St. NW, 888-594-WISE. Sundays 9pm-Until.

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St. N.E., 202-529-0626. Women on Fridays & Men on Saturdays.

THE EDGE
56 L St. S.E., 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

MR. P'S 2147 P St. N.W., 202-293-9009.

THE BIG HUNT
1345 Connecticut Ave. NW, Hip-Hop Club Sundays 5-11pm.

NOB HILL
1101 Kenyon St. NW, 202-797-1101. Very Friendly Crowd- Black Owned.

TRACKS
1111 First St. SE, 202-488-3320. Black on Friday Nights with Dancers Entertainment.

CLIKQUEBOOKSTAND

YOUR PREMIERE GUIDE TO SOME OF THE BOOKSTORES THAT CARRIES CLIKQUE

Albuquerque, NM
Sisters and Brothers — 505 266 7317 — 4011 Silver Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI
Common Language — 734-663-0036 — 215 S. 4th Ave.
Websters/Nicola's — 734 662-6150 — 2607 Plymouth Rd.

Atlanta, GA
Brushstrokes —404 876 6567 — 1510 Piedmont Ave.
Charis Books & More —404 524 0304 — 1189 Euclid Ave.
Outwrite — 404 607 0082 — 991 Piedmont Ave.

Auburn, MI
Village Books — 360 715 3684 — 1210 11th st

Boston, MA
Glad Day Books — 617 267-3010 — 673 Boylston St

Brimingham, AL
Lodestar Books — 205 939-3356 — 2020 B 11th Ave.

Chicago, IL
Barbara's Bookstore — 708 848-9140 — 1350 N. Wells St
57TH Street Books — 773 684-1300 — 1301 East 57th Street

Columbus, OH
An Open Book — 614-291-0080 — 61 N. High St.

Dallas. TX
Black Images — 214 943-0142 — 230 Wynnewood Village
Crossroad — 214 521 8919 — 3930 Ceder Springs Rd.

Ft. Lauderdale, FL
The Pride Factory — 954-463-6600 — 400 N. Federal Hwy.

Grand Rapids, MI
Sons & Daughters — 616-459-8877 — 962 Cherry SE

Greensboro, SC
White Rabbit Books — 336 272 7604 — 1833 Spring Garden

Houston, TX
Oakland Marketing Inc. — 713 522-7988 — 1953 Richmond
Crossroads — 713-522-7988 — 1111 Westheimer

Ithaca
Borealis Bookstore — 607 272-7752 — 111 N Aurora St.

Key West, FL
Flaming Maggie's — 305 294-3931 — 830 Flemimg St.

Las Vegas, NE
Get Booked — 612-825-0336 — 4640 Paradise #15

Memphis, TN
Davis Kidd Bookstores — 901 683-9801 — 397 Perkins Rd.

Miami, FL
Lambda Passages — 305-754-6900 — 7545 Biscayne Blvd.

Minneapolis, MI
A Brothers Touch — 612 377-6279 — 2327 Hennipin Ave.

Nashville, TN
Outloud Books & Gifts — 615-340-0034 — 1709 Church St.

New Hope
Book Gallery — 215-862-5110 — 19 west Mechanic St

New Orleans, LA
Faubourg Marigny Bookstore — 504-943-9875 — 600 Frenchmen
Bookstar — 504 523-6411 — 414 N. Peters

New York City, NY
A Different Light — 800-343-4002 — 151 W. 19th St.

Norfolk, VA
Phoenix Rising — 757-622-3701 — 619-B Colonial

Orlando, FL
Out & About Books — 407-896-0204 — 930 N. Mills Ave

Philadelphia, PN
Giovanni's Room — 215-923-2960 — 345 S. 12th Street

Phoenix, AZ
Obelisk The — 602-266-2665 — 24 W. Camelback #A

Richmond,VA
Phoenix Rising — 804-355-7939 — 19 N. Belmont

Roanoke
Out Word Connections — 540 985-6886 — 114 Kirk Ave.
Carytown — 804 359 4831 — 2930 w. Cary St.

San Deigo, CA
Obelisk The — 619 297-4171 — 1029 University Ave.

San Francisco, CA
A Different Light — 415-431-0891 — 489 Castro St.

Seattle, WA
Beyond the Closet — 206 322-4609 — 518 E. Pike

St. Louis, MO
Left Banks Books — 314 367-6731 — 399 N. Euclid Ave.

Tampa, FL
Tomes & Tresures — 813 251-9368 — 498 S. Howard Ave.

Temple Terrace
Books for Thought — 813 988- 6363 — 10910 N. 56th Street

West Hollywood, CA
A Different Light — 310-854-6601 — 8853 Santa Monica Blvd.

Washington, DC
Lambda Rising — 202-462-6969 — 1625 Connecticut Ave. NW
Vertigo Books — 202-429-9272 — 1337 Connecticut Ave. NW

clikque on erotica

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

Continued from page 63

"Did he touch you William?" And with that question, William's manly tears increased and became a fountain. He was no longer a man, but a scared, confused child, crying out for help. Craig reached out and hugged him tightly. And there they stood in a tight embrace. William sobbing and Craig's heart crying, too. They were both men, yet, at this moment, Craig somehow was more of a man than William could ever imagine.

****

Outside, Cicely parked her car. She smelled of expensive perfume and body spray. She checked her lips and her hair as she opened her driver side door. Dressed only in black pumps and a black trench coat, she stepped out of her car. She pressed her remote key chain and her headlights flashed to confirm that her car alarm was set. She licked her lips one last time as she dropped her keys in her coat pocket. As she walked, her perfume left a trail of a sexy aroma. The sexy sound of her heels clicked and echoed as she entered William's breezeway. William did not notice that his door was cracked just slightly. This would often happen when he didn't lock it after closing it. It would sometimes spring back open. As Cicely approached the door, she inhaled deeply and smiled as she thought of her riding William's beautiful, massive dick. She reached out to knock. As she did so, the door slowly opened to a scene that almost made her collapse. There was William, with tears in his eye, in an embrace with another man. She recognized the man. It was William's neighbor from upstairs.

"What the fuck is this? William, is this that faggot you told me about from upstairs?" she asked as she rolled her eyes and flipped her hair. Craig looked at her and his heart immediately broke into pieces. William looked at her then back at Craig. Craig looked William in the eyes and pushed him away. Almost in tears himself, he walked towards the door and looked Cicely in the eye and said, "Look, bitch, I have never hit a female in my life, but I'm always taking applications for the first. So if you ever...ever call me a faggot again, you've got the job, bitch!" and he pushed her aside and vanished into the night. Cicely turned away from him and looked back at William

"What the fuck was that about?" William just sat there shaking his head in disbelief and wiping his eyes.

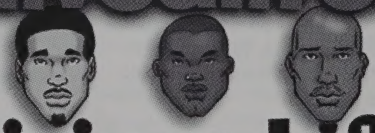
"What...Are you a fucking faggot too, now?" she smirked. William's head stopped shaking and he slowly raised his eyes to her.

"Get the fuck out."

To Be Continued- Next Month

www.livedlife.com

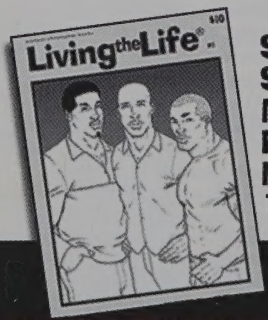
by Michael-Christopher
Creator of
THE CLIKQUE



WE'VE MOVED!

Living the Life

Black Gay America's favorite Comic Book
has a new home-homepage that is!
Complete with character bio's, storylines,
and sneak peaks of actual pages from the book!



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Mr. & Miss Black Universe 1999/2000

Birth Of The Millennium

Preliminaries: October 28th & 29th ■ Ramada Inn Grand Ballroom ■ 418 Armour Dr. ■ 800-282-8222

Finals: October 30th ■ Host Hotel: Sheraton Colony Square Ballroom ■ 188 14th St. ■ 404-892-6000

For Additional Information Contact Archie @ 404-320-3338 or Niesha @ 770-216-8499

For All Your Travel Needs Call 404-634-5708 ■ Host Hotel Code: Mr. & Ms. BU

The 15th Annual

Mr. & Miss Black America

The 4th Annual

Miss Black America Plus

Featuring:

Majesty: Mr. Black America
Yosmine Campbell Starr: Miss BA
Amarda Korday: Miss BA Plus

Categories:

Interview

Presentation
All that glitter,sparkle & shine

Sportswear
Non-seasonal . No Mix Match & No Costume

Talent
7 minutes & 3 minutes set-up

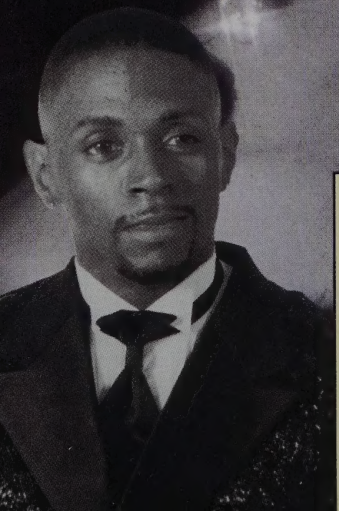
Evening Gown / Formal
No beads, stones, sequents

Question & Answer
Top 5 contestants

Entry Fee: $150
Rehersals @ 2PM

For More Info Call
Gerald or Brian
678-309-0147 HM
404-405-6264 VM
770-566-2200 Pager

The Black America Pageantry System



Preliminary Nights
November 17th & 18
9PM @ Traxx — 306 Luckie St.

Final Night
November 19th
7PM @ Centre Stage

The 6th Annual Mr. & Miss Club Colours Pageant 1999/2000

Saturday November 27th

Contestants will compete in the following categories:

Miss Club Colours
Color Presentation
Club Wear
Evening Gown
Q&A
Talent
*Color presentation will be one solid color

Mr. Club Colours
Color Presentation
Sports Wear
Formal Wear
Q&A
Talent
*Color presentation will be one solid color

Orientation @2PM

PRIZE PACKAGE
Winners: Over $1,500 in cash and prizes

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Trophy

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For applications contact:
Frank @ 804-353-9776
or Randy @ 804-771-5044

536 N. Harrison St.
Richmond, Va

CLUB COLOURS

October
17th
Mr. & Miss
Black
Mississippi
Universe

October
22th
-24th
Turn-About
Week

STUDIO 2000

Club City Lights — Jackson, Mississippi

Weekly Line-up

Fiercest Fridays
with L.C. Simpson, Jr.

Saturdays
Great Entertainment
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LaBelle & Klanna
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Sunday Night
Madness
with Contessa
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October
30th
JSU
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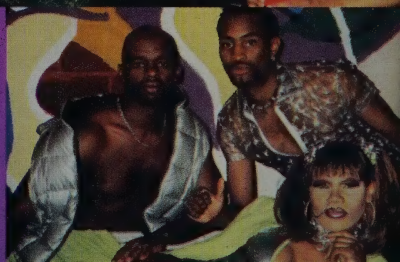
For Bookings Call Dee
Dee LaBelle at
601-713-1551

November
6th
Mr. & Miss
Closet Ball
Pageant



Miss Clikque America
PAGEANTRY SYSTEM

Miss Clikque Houston
Miss Clikque Houston — Tiffany Brooks
Tijuanna Brooks 1st Atl.

Miss Clikque Atlanta
Miss Clikque Atlanta — Paula Sinclair
Stasha Sanchez 1st Atl.

Miss Clikque New Orleans
Sept. 24th, 1999
Montreal Coleman — 504-943-5577

Miss Clikque Memphis
Nov. 7th, 1999
Terryl Buckner — 901-345-8031

Miss Clikque Jacksonville
Nov. 23th, 1999
James — 904-812-4505

Miss Clikque Birmingham
November 1999
Steven Daffin (Latroys) — 205-951-2163

Miss Clikque Jackson
Dec. 4th, 1999
DeDe Labelle (CCL) — 601-713-1551

Miss Clikque Dallas
December 5th, 1999
Flawless Oz — 713-451-4433

Miss Clikque Washington, DC
Dec. 5th, 1999
Theresa Jackson — 202-543-4258

Miss Clikque Miami
Dec. 6th, 1999
Danyel Green — 954-484-7318

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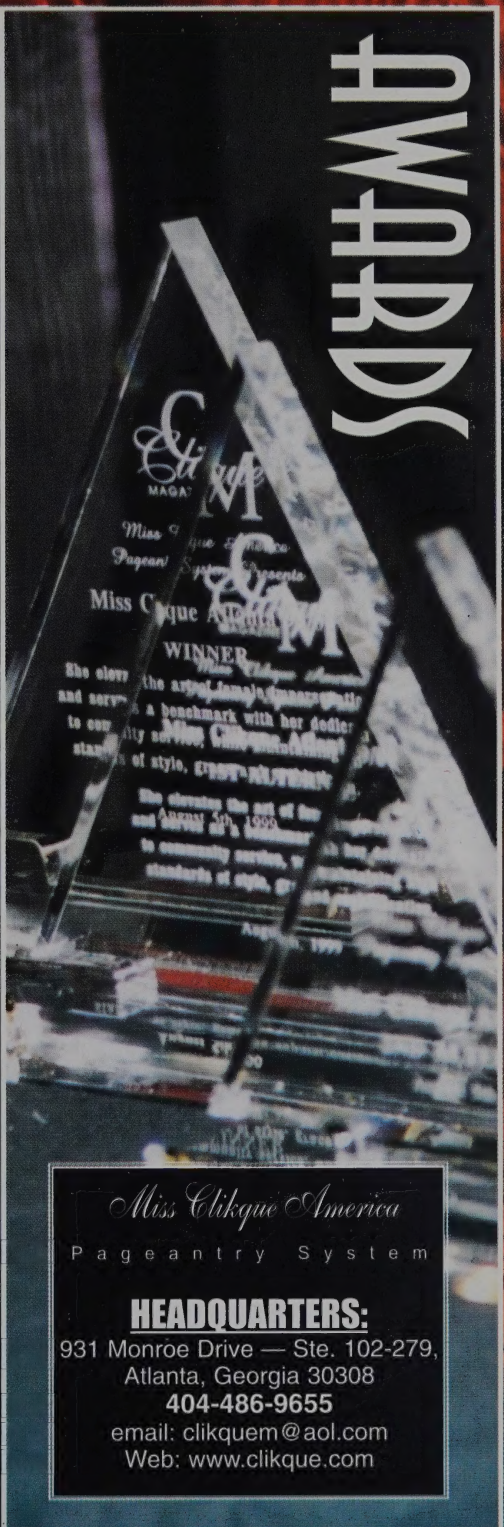

Miss Clikque America
Pageantry System

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email: clikquem@aol.com
Web: www.clikque.com

MISS CLIKQUE AMERICA

Pageantry System

Congratulates

Paula Sinclaire

Miss Clikque Atlanta

Winner of our Second preliminary to the Miss Clikque America.

Congratulations is also extended to

Stasha Sanchez

Miss Clikque Atlanta 1st Alternate

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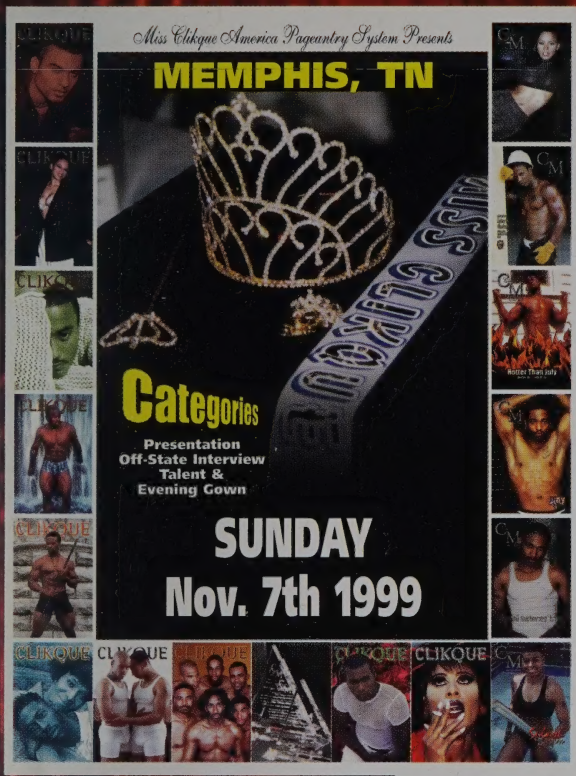

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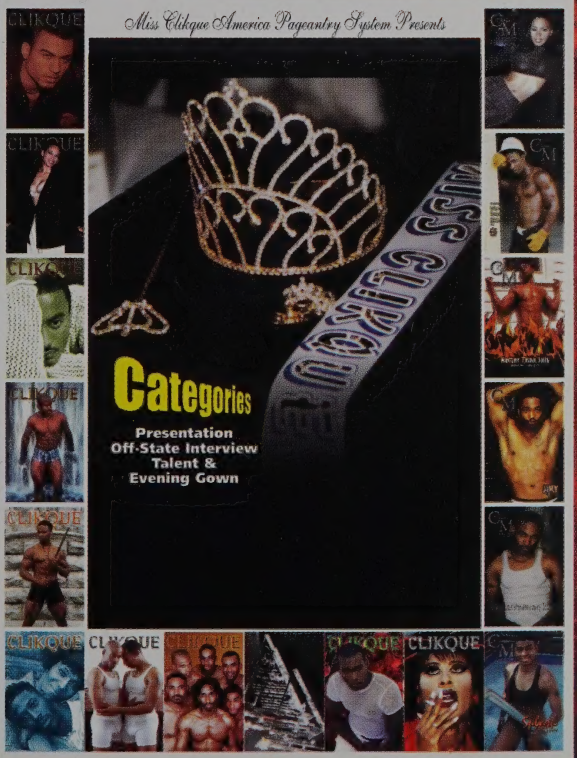

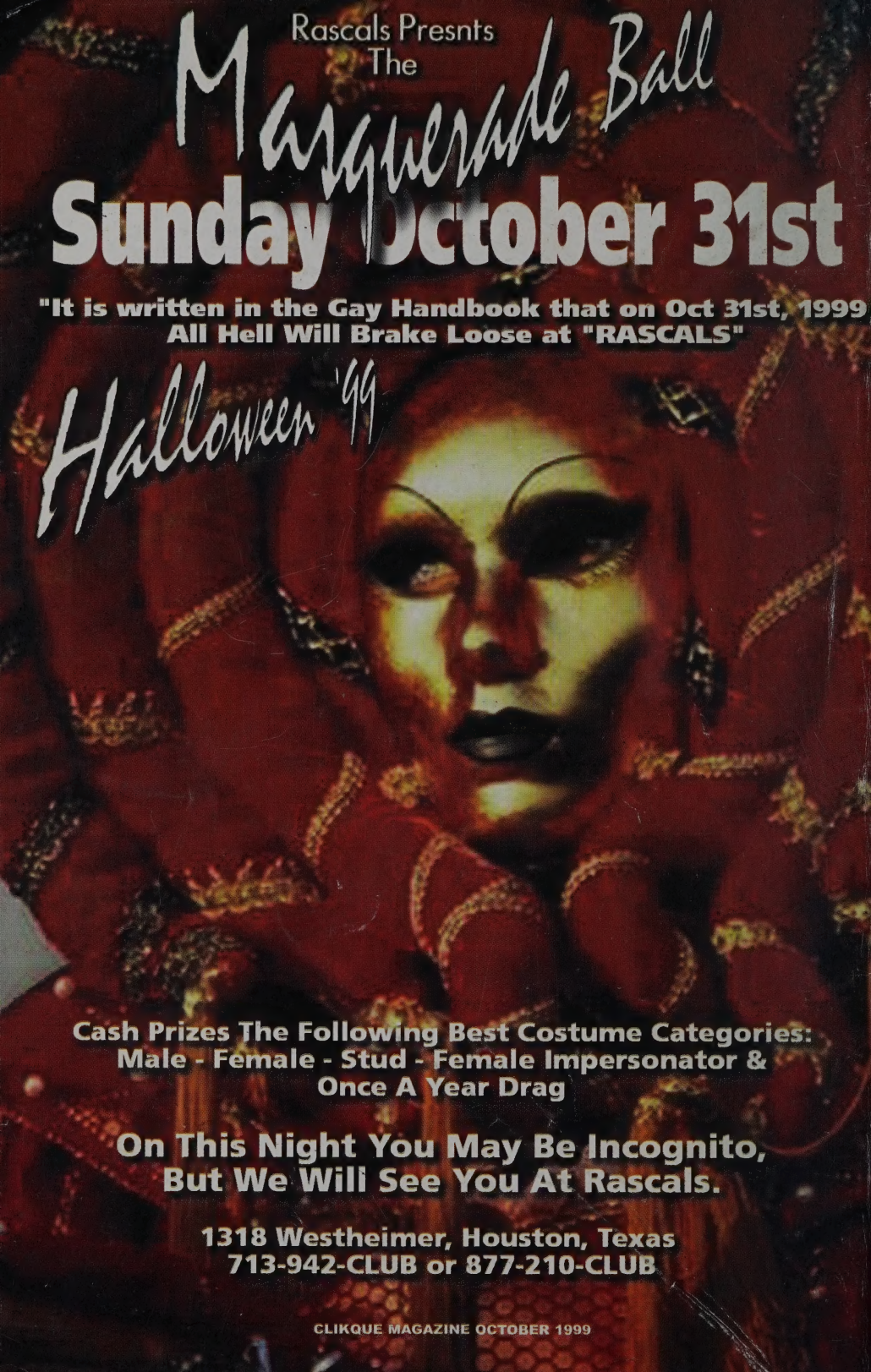
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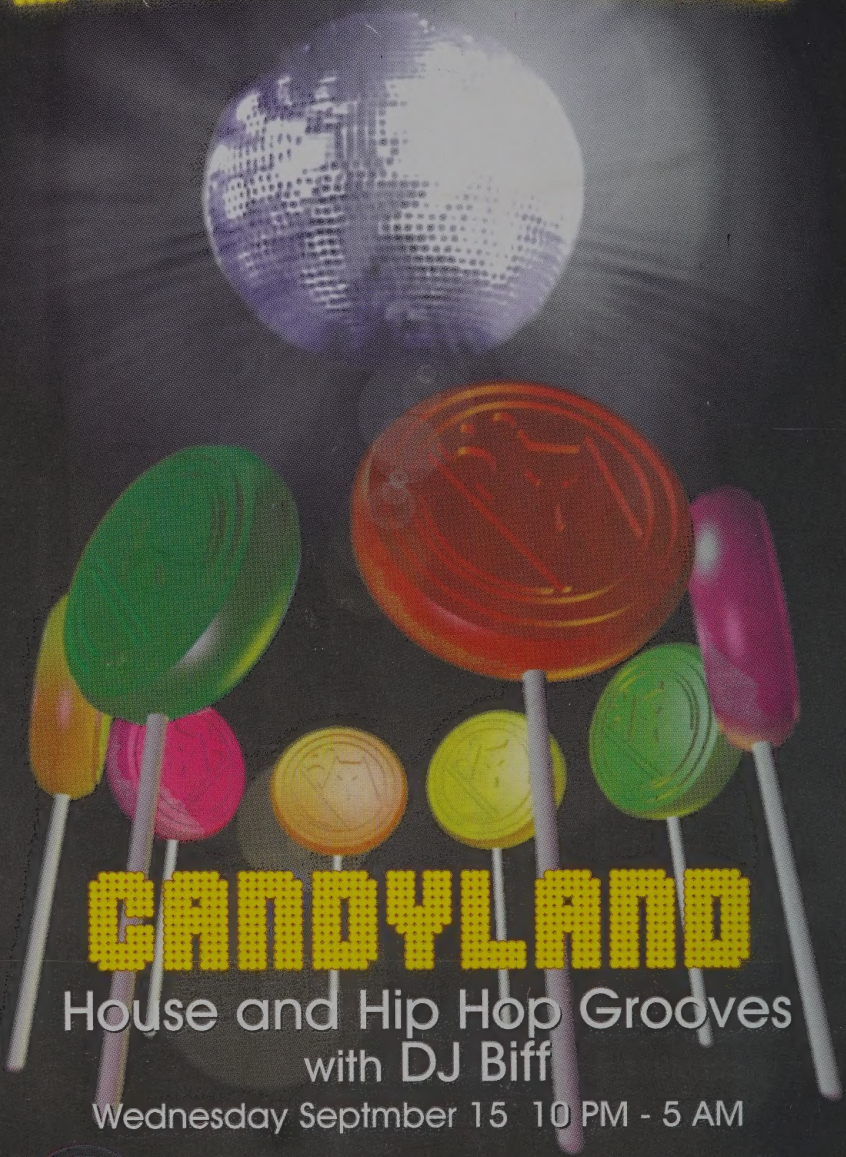

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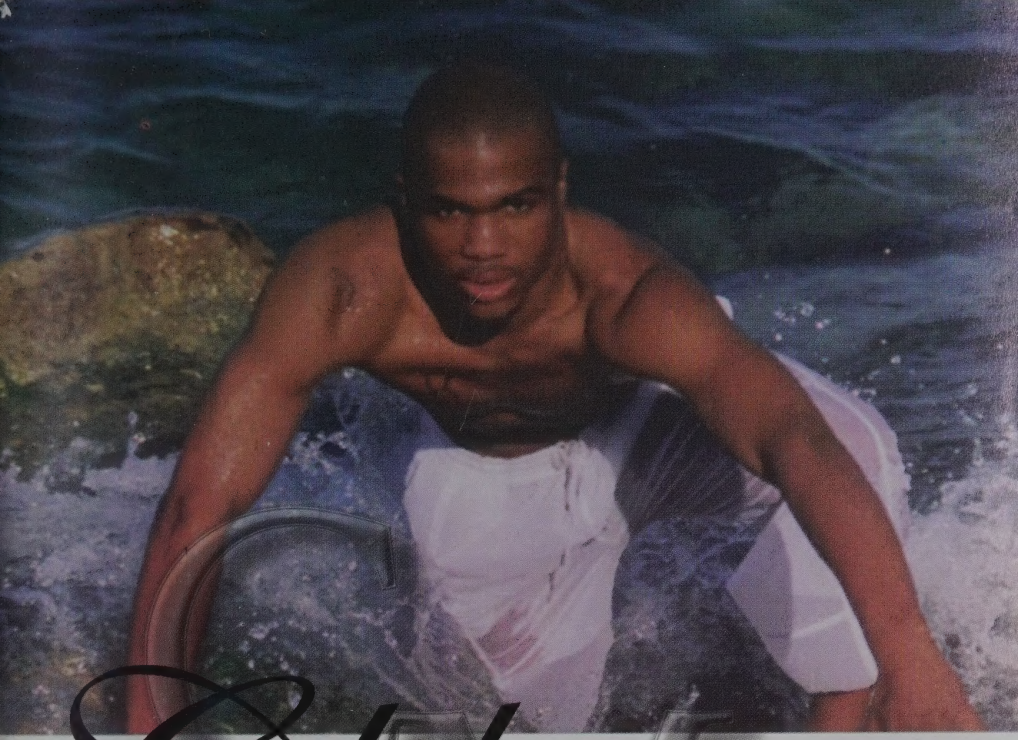

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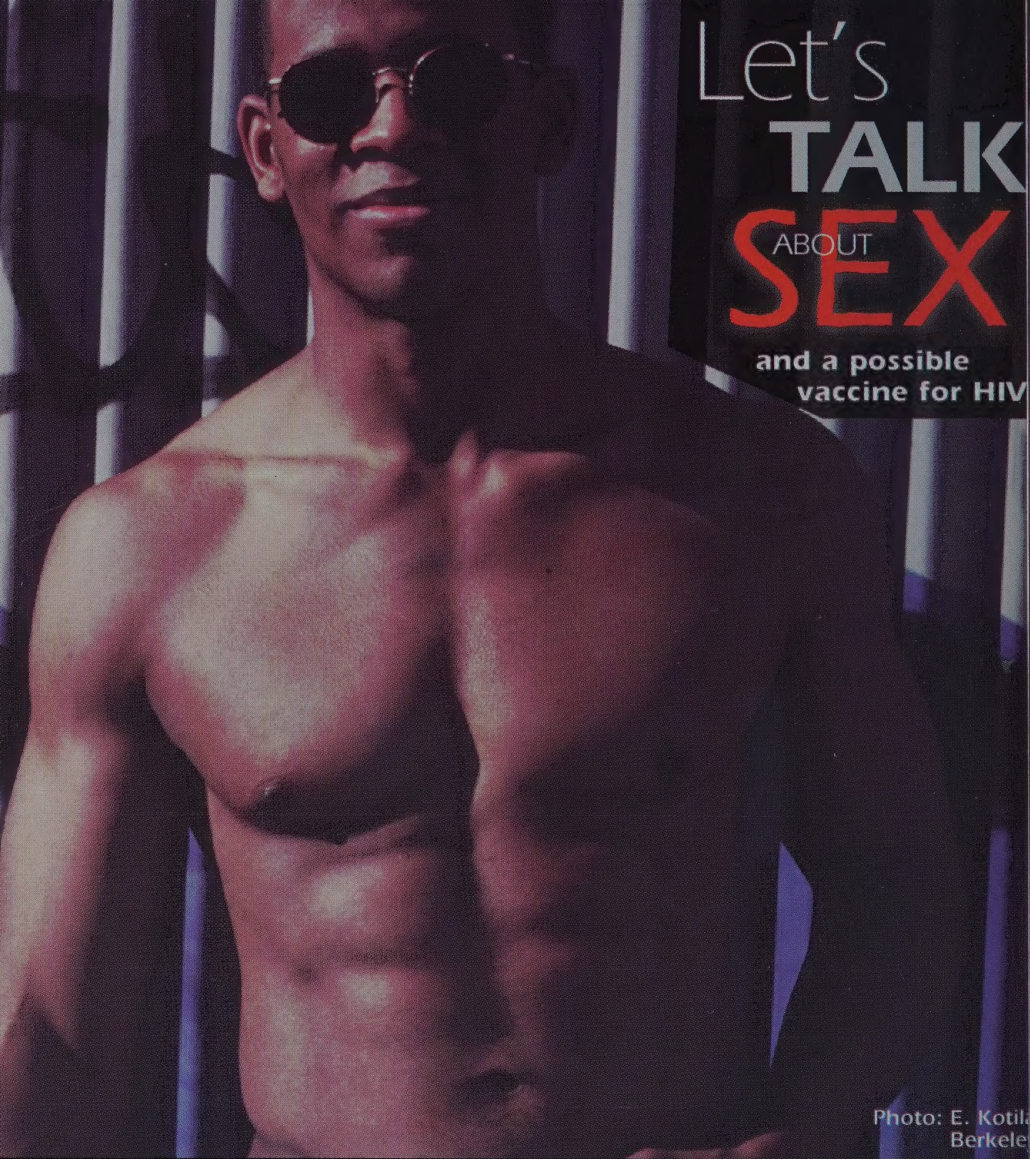

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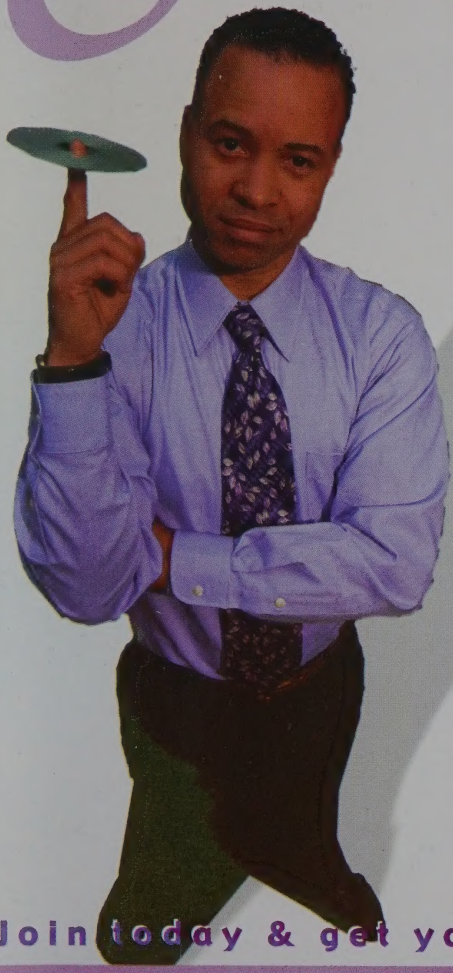

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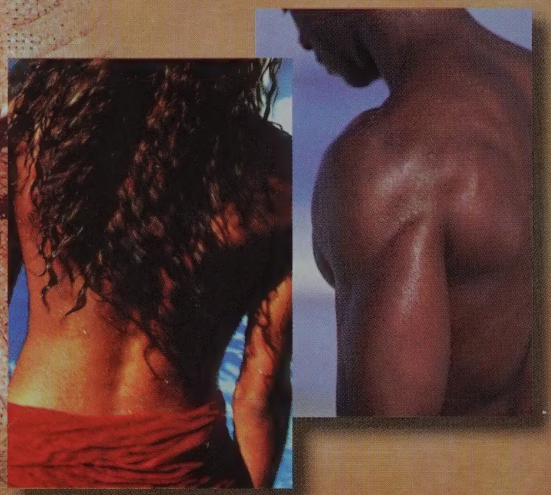

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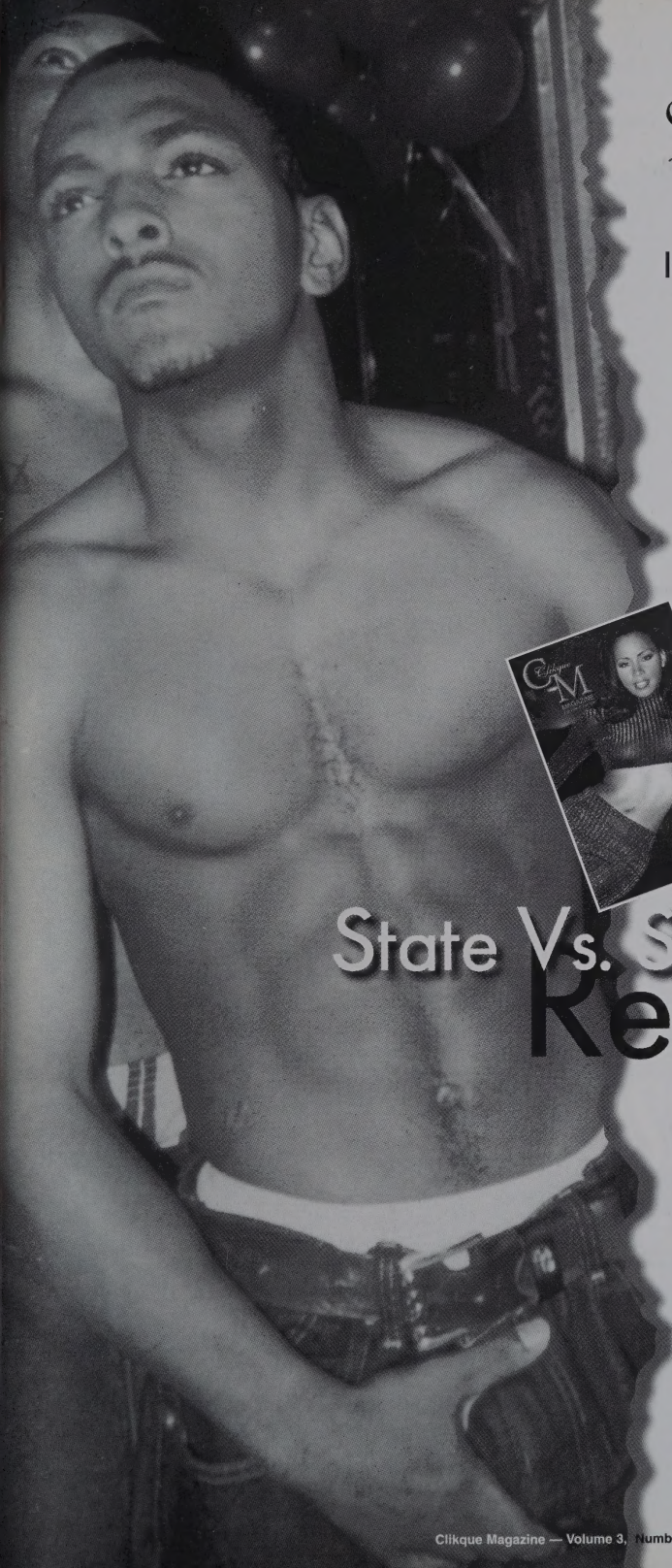

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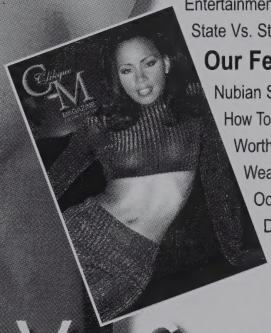

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Clikque Magazine

PUBLISHER / EDITOR
Dwight Powell

COPY EDITOR
Darryl! L.C. Moch

OFFICE MANAGER / COVER COORDINATOR
Nestor Zapata

ART DIRECTOR / GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dwight Powell

HIV / AIDS EDITORIALS
Don Sneed - Dallas, Tx.

MONTHLY COMMENTARY
Craig Washington - Atlanta, Ga.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Anthony Rucker - Gainesville, Fl.

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS
Scott Bogan - Atlanta, Ga.
Todd Edwards - Austin, Tx.

STAFF WRITERS
Parker Bridges- Atlanta, Ga.
Danny Chislom - Atlanta, Ga.
Queshan Hayes - Atlanta, Ga.
Curdell "Doc" Hoskins Jr. - Atlanta, Ga.
Khalid Idawu - Atlanta, Ga.
Lee Jones - Louisville, Ky.
Dorian Kelley-Jahman - Atlanta, Ga.
Darryl! L.C. Moch- Atlanta, Ga.
Victor J. Stewart- Atlanta, Ga.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Katherine Gandy - Atlanta, Ga.
Stacy Jones - Atlanta, Ga.
M. Liz Marshall - Detroit, MI.
Brigette — Birmingham, AL
Juan Solomon II — Ann Arbor, MI
Erick LeBoyd — Concord, NC
Rev. Renaldo Epps — Claymont, DE
Mz. Sparkle — Chicago, IL
Anthony Hollins — Jonesboro, GA
Borris Powell — Chicago, IL
Joseph Butcher — Jamaica, NY
Ivan Myers — Atlanta, GA
Jerry T. Barnes — Tuscaloosa, AL
Jack Miller — Baltimore, MD

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Dwight Powell, Nestor Zapata
CARTOONIST
Michael Christopher
OWNER / PUBLISHER Dwight Powell
CO-OWNER Nestor Zapata
MARKETING Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc
SALES Roderick Martin
EVENTS COORDINATOR Victor J. Stewart
MILLENNIUM BALL COOR. Danny Chislom
OFFICE ADDRESS:
931 Monroe Drive, Suite 102-279,
Atlanta, GA, 30308
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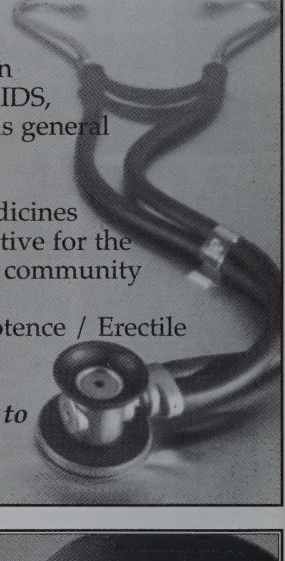

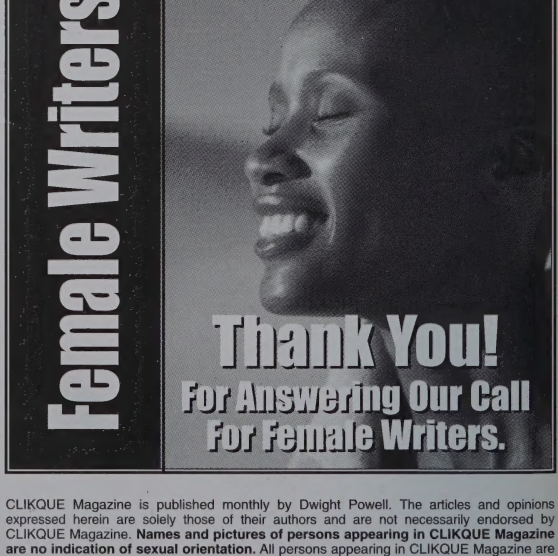

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I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our advertisers, writers and contributors for making last months issue of Clikque, one of the best magazines to ever be published by and for our Same Gender Loving Community of Color. It is only with your support, that we will continue to render what you have now come to expect from us... a top notch, quality, informative, entertaining, and well-rounded Magazine.

On that same note, the ladies in our community need to be applauded for answering our call for female writers and contributors in such great numbers. Now, I can really say that Clikque is for HIM and for HER. From day one, it has always been our intent to utilize Clikque as a tool that reaches, all members of our SGL and transgendered communities. When you are done with this issue, you will see that we have successful managed to do just that. Thanks again, and you can now look forward to a publication that represents every segment of our community.

This month we have introduced a new section. It is called Topic of the Month. In this section, we will present a topic, and have you make comments and feedback on it. A selected number of submissions will be selected for publication. This is in an attempt to do our part of informing and enlightening you, our valued and loyal supporters.

Until next month, stay real and safe.

Peace.

Publisher's Message

Dwight Powell

Associated Press / CNN

CDC: DECLINE IN AIDS DEATHS SLOWS DRAMATICALLY

ATLANTA (AP) -- The sharp decline in AIDS deaths that began two years ago with the development of powerful new drugs has suddenly been cut in half, raising questions about whether the medications are already losing their punch, health officials said Monday.

AIDS killed 17,047 people in the United States last year -- a decline of 20 percent from 1997. From 1996 to 1997, the drop in deaths was a much more dramatic 42 percent, which health officials attributed to the effectiveness of new drugs.

"As we anticipated, we are now seeing the first signs of a slowing in this trend," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of HIV prevention for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said today during the National HIV Prevention Conference.

"In a period of only two years, new combination therapies cut the annual level of death in half," she said. "But for the time being it appears that much of the benefit of these new therapies has been realized."

In 1995, 49,351 people died from AIDS in the United States. By 1996, that dropped to 36,792, and the number was down to 21,222 in 1997.

The CDC listed several possible causes for the slowdown in reductions of AIDS deaths.

Most people who know they have HIV are already being treated, Gayle said. Drug resistance among some AIDS patients causes the treatment to fail, and other patients fail to keep up with the complicated juggling of pills they have to take for the drugs to be effective.

"Our worst fears have become a tragic reality," said Steven Fisher of the advocacy group AIDS Action. "AIDS drugs don't work for everyone and aren't a cure for anyone."

New HIV infections in 1998 were estimated at roughly 40,000 -- a number that's held steady for the past decade.

The CDC said AIDS continues to kill blacks in higher numbers than other racial groups.

Blacks, who make up about 13 percent of the population, accounted for 49 percent of AIDS deaths in 1998. Thirty-two percent of deaths were among whites and Hispanics made up 18 percent.

"In many ways, the story of how well we do in HIV and AIDS will be told by how well we do with the African-American population," Gayle said.

The three-day conference, organized by the CDC and 17 other agencies, features 2,000 scientists, doctors, researchers and advocates addressing efforts to monitor and prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Sunday, Gayle and others opened the conference by warning against complacency.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to get people to pay attention to HIV prevention and that in and of itself is a primary reason for this conference," she said.

Since the 1980s, more than 300,000 have died of AIDS. The recent success of some treatments have made some people complacent about the disease.

"Despite a growing complacency about the need for HIV prevention, HIV remains a serious disease that is still very much with us and there is a greater need for HIV prevention today more than ever," she said.

NEW HIV VACCINE CONCEPT MAY EXTEND HOPE TO THOSE ALREADY INFECTED

BALTIMORE (CNN) -- Creating a vaccine against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, has proven to be a tricky task. But a group of researchers is expressing excitement about a new approach that may also offer help to those already infected with the virus.

Shortly after someone is infected with HIV, the virus produces a protein called TAT, which binds to healthy immune cells and uses them to reproduce HIV. Without this protein, HIV can't reproduce in the body.

Now, scientists hope to use this information to create a vaccine that could not only prevent infection but also possibly help control HIV in those already infected.

"By vaccinating against TAT, you would inactivate TAT. You would block it so the immune system wouldn't be so impaired, and you would be better able to fight the virus," says Dr. Robert Gallo of the Institute of Human Virology, one of the researchers working on the study.

Other scientists say while the approach sounds promising, the research is still in the early stages.

"Theoretically, it makes sense," says Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health. "But there are a lot of things that make sense theoretically that when you practically try them, they just don't work."

Dr. Daniel Zagury, of the University Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, has done several clinical trials with a vaccine called TAT toxoid.

"The experiments in animals showed that the TAT toxoid was fully safe, well tolerated and induced antibodies in very high levels to antagonize, to neutralize the TAT that is reduced by infected cells," he says.

Last year, the first large scale HIV vaccine trial was launched, which is still ongoing. It could be years before the TAT vaccine is tested in large numbers of people.

HIV CONFERENCE OPENS WITH WARNING AGAINST COMPLACENCY

ATLANTA -- More than 2,000 scientists, doctors, researchers and advocates have gathered in Atlanta for the National HIV Prevention Conference, organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 17 other sponsoring organizations.

During the four-day conference, federal officials will release the lat-

Associated Press / CNN

est national data on trends in HIV and AIDS deaths and infection rates for the general population. Statistics on prisoners, unrecognized factors contributing to the spread of HIV, and results from a new HIV test will also be released.

In the nearly two decades since the first cases of AIDS were reported, the deadly virus has claimed more than 300,000 lives. The good news is that the number of new HIV infections has dropped from about 100,000 a year to 40,000.

Concern over record rate of infection among blacks

But at the same time, the epidemic is taking a greater toll on women and minorities, especially blacks who are becoming infected with AIDS at record rates, federal health officials said.

In the mid 1980s, blacks represented about 25 percent of the new cases of AIDS reported, Hispanics about 14 percent and women 8 percent, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher said. By 1997-98, blacks made up 45 percent of the cases, Hispanics 22 percent and women 23 percent.

Health officials are concerned about a growing complacency about HIV, especially among some of the people most at risk, health officials said Sunday at the first ever national conference addressing efforts to monitor and prevent the spread of the virus.

Officials want more preventive efforts

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to get people to pay attention to HIV prevention and that in and of itself is a primary reason for this conference," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention.

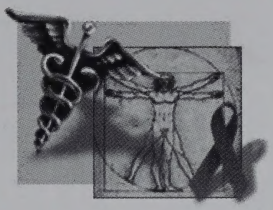
"Despite a growing complacency about the need for HIV prevention, HIV remains a serious disease that is still very much with us and there is a greater need for HIV prevention today more than ever," she said.

"One of the major concerns we have about the AIDS epidemic is that increasingly it is affecting communities that tend to be left out of the health care and public health system," Satcher said. "We know that in order to be successful we have to find a new way to reach these communities."

Much of the effort now being made to fight the epidemic is devoted to care and treatment when more needs to be directed toward prevention in order to control the epidemic, experts say.

"We have demonstrated that prevention works and deserves support," said Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, head of the CDC. "Nevertheless, as in most areas of public health, support for prevention is frequently more rhetorical than substantive."

STUDY: HIV CANNOT



BE ERADICATED FROM BODY

BALTIMORE (CNN) -- HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, cannot be eradicated from a patient's body even when it is undetectable in the blood, according to a study released Saturday by the National Institutes of Health.

Researchers had hoped that after taking anti-HIV drugs for more than a year, patients with HIV could stop treatment and the virus would not return. The study results appear to indicate that patients may need to continue drug therapy for the long term.

"It's going to be very difficult to take somebody off therapy and feel that the virus is not going to bounce back," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, who headed the research team.

The study results were made public at a virology conference in Baltimore on Saturday.

Fauci and colleagues followed 18 HIV-positive patients who had been on the drugs for more than a year and in whom HIV had been reduced to undetectable levels. The researchers then took the patients off the drugs to see if the virus came back: It did, in all 18 patients, within three weeks.

Virus lurks in body's 'reservoirs'

In some cases, a different form of the virus showed up than was originally found in the patient. Fauci said this showed researchers that there are places in the body where the virus can hide.

Scientists had calculated that the HIV virus was capable of hiding in body reservoirs unreachable by drugs for as long as 60 years.

They had hoped to be able to flush the HIV from the reservoirs, either with the help of a drug called Interleukin-2 or with the passage of time. The scientists then thought the drugs would kill the virus as it emerged from the reservoirs.

"It does tell us that, given the currently available regimens that we have of antiviral drugs, we are not going to eliminate or eradicate the virus from individuals," Fauci said.

A tough, expensive treatment

When those patients who chose to resume therapy were put back on medication, the virus was again suppressed to undetectable levels.

But not everyone chose to resume the tough and costly HIV regimen.

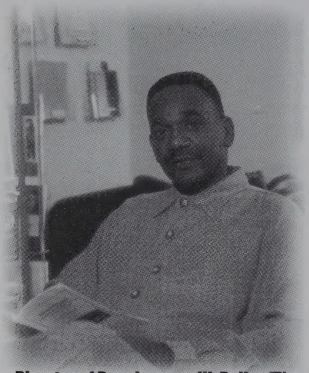
An HIV-positive patient may need to take as many as 30 pills a day to suppress the virus, and the side effects can be debilitating. Many patients suffer nausea, vomiting, fatigue, diarrhea, and elevated triglyceride levels.

The drugs cost an average of $15,000 annually, putting them out of the reach of most of the world's HIV positive patients.

Fauci cautioned that patients should not try stopping the anti-HIV medication outside a clinical trial, because they may become resistant to certain drugs and not be able to go back on them.

hiv/aids updates

By Don Sneed - Staff



Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: Dallas, Texas - the Southwestern Front. This is my last article before Black Gay and Lesbian Pride Weekend in Dallas - October 1st through 3rd. I hope to see some of you in Dallas during Pride Weekend. I assure you that it will be much cooler than it is now. Indian Summer (October) is one of the best times to be in Dallas. The weather is very pleasant and the citizens are in a much better mood after enduring another "summer from hell." I invite you to visit with us at the Renaissance III booths that will be strategically placed at some of the weekend's festivities.

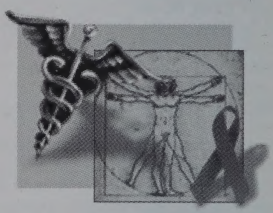
The Centers for Disease Control will be making its announcements about who is to be funded with the Congressional Black Caucus monies soon. I wish all who applied the best and I pray that the monies are used wisely.

The government has done its part now let us move on to another entity that has a huge vested interest in African Americans with HIV disease: the Pharmaceutical Companies. I am sure that most of you have seen advertisements, over the last year are so, for anti-HIV medications with Black people prominently featured. I caution you not to believe that the companies paying for these ads have developed some new found compassion and concern for African Americans. This is not how for-profit companies, in the bastion of capitalism, operate. Let me clear the air. I am all for capitalism. I don't have a problem with people and companies making money. It is the American way and after all I am an African American. I and most of my colleagues are keenly aware of why the pharmaceutical companies have turned their attention to us. We know why they are strategically investing dollars in marketing and making contributions to organizations in the Black community. The simple truth is that, for all intents in purposes, the pharmaceutical companies have reached market saturation in the white gay community with their anti-HIV medications. African Americans, the majority of which are not aware of their HIV infection, are the new frontier as consumers of billions of dollars of anti-HIV medications. Catching AIDS, testing for AIDS, vaccinating for AIDS, treating AIDS and burying people dying from AIDS is a multi-billion dollar a year business. Make no errors! Just about every White person in this country who has HIV/AIDS is on medications. Most Black people with the disease are not.

Let us do some simple math. There may be 400,000 African Americans who are HIV positive and do not know it. Depending on the stage of infection, it costs about $8,000 to $15,000 a year to medicate a person with HIV disease. Using a median figure of $12,000 times 400,000 that comes to $4,800,000,000.00 (4.8 billion dollars) in potential annual drug sales to Black people. Folks that's a lot of biscuits!!! Just the two anti-HIV drugs that I take cost out at about $9,000 a year.

Therefore, when pharmaceutical companies come to our communities we should not only expect but demand that we be treated with the respect that a potential 4.8 billion dollar market deserves. For the most part Merck Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology, Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Roche Pharmaceuticals and Dupont Pharmaceuticals have been approaching our communities with the proper respect that a suitor of a multi-billion dollar market should demonstrate. They can do more. I anticipate that they will. However, there is a behemoth out there that has come with a "pig foot and a bottle of beer" - GlaxoWellcome.

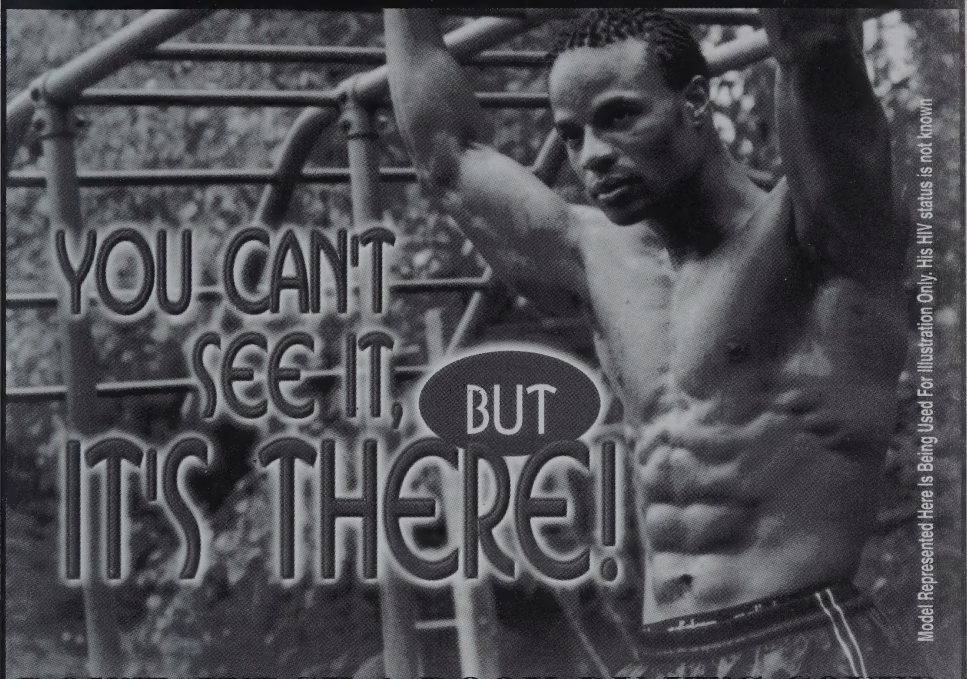
GlaxoWellcome treats most African-American agencies and our communities as if we were second class citizens still deserving of the leftovers from slaughtered hogs - pig feet, entrails



and hog tails. Fact: Last week GlaxoWellcome proudly announced in the local White gay newspaper in Dallas that they had awarded $20,000 to a White gay agency to provide services to African Americans in Dallas. The money was supposedly for Black folks but there were only White folks in the picture. Can we talk about being high handed, arrogant and insensitive. Fact: a few weeks ago GlaxoWellcome came to Dallas and announced that they were bringing a Black gospel road show to Dallas and ten other cities to lift the awareness of African American congregations and

Continues on Page 27

Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



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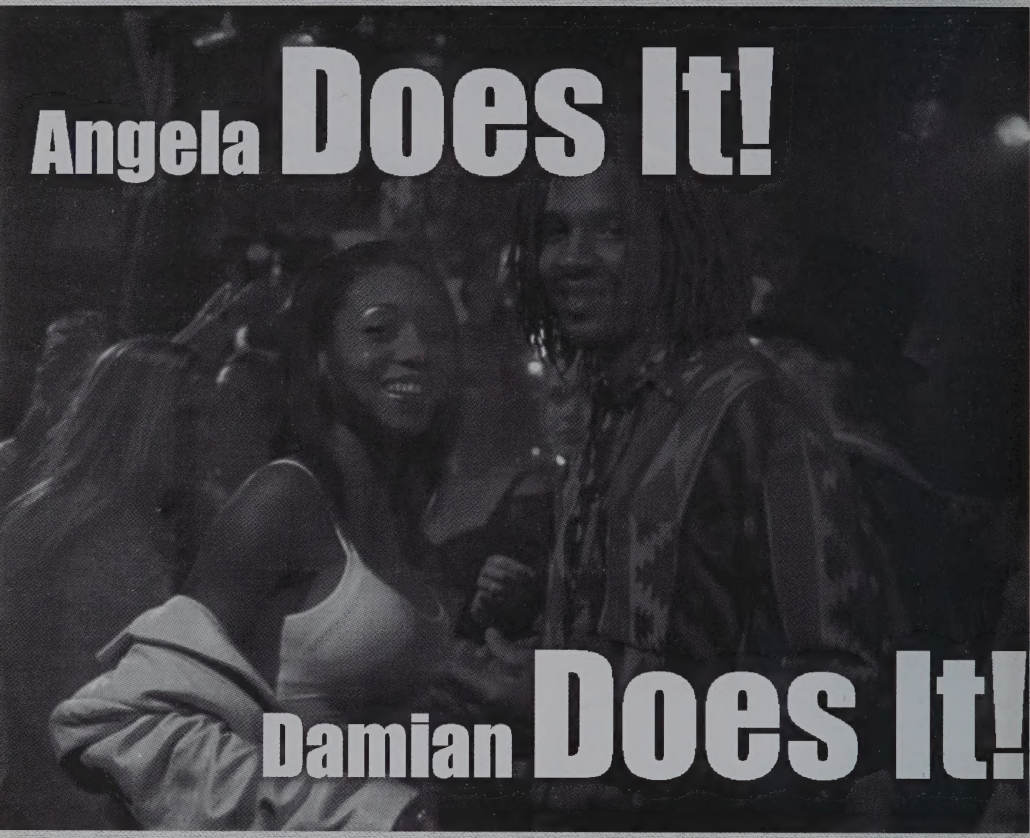

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A Deeper Love

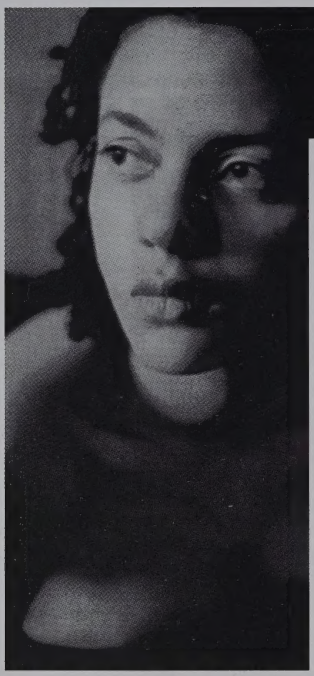
By M. Liz Marshall

Do you ever question your existence? So many times in life, I've dealt with family and friends pondering over the true meaning of life. For me, I think like so many other things that the answer is inevitably an individual journey. In pursuit of obtaining a better understanding of my purpose in life, I've studied myself. Through self-introspection, I have discovered my best attributes as well as my greatest weaknesses. I think that so much can be learned by looking inwardly as opposed to seeking constant reassurance and self -worth from others. The greatest accomplishment in living is learning to love yourself. Honey, if you don't love you and know who you are, there ain't too much you'll be available to offer to others. Find the deeper love before you jump in the shallow end and come up with a feeling of exuberance but nothing truly tangible. Always look up and within before you leap.

So much of life is founded on and relative to love. First, let's look at the foundations of the world, regardless of your belief I'm sure we can all agree that the creator formulated our existence through an act of love. If not, let's say your mother loved you enough to carry you nine months and have you. OK, that should be enough for you to get the point. Love is the reason for your life; you would not be here if someone hadn't loved you to begin with. Then, we get here and forget the entire concept. Too entrenched in the problems of life and other folks business to fathom the idea that without love, people perish. Love yourself before pondering the idealized relationship. He or she cannot love what you haven't bothered to cultivate within yourself. Don't allow anyone to make discoveries for you, discover yourself baby. There are so many of the "children" wandering around aimlessly these days, clad in Versace, hiding behind Donna Karan that remain clueless about their own identity. In my brief thirty-one year old life, I have learned that loving myself prolongs my relationships, assists me in attaining my goals and gives me direction. I see too much shade in our communities, fighting amongst ourselves and entirely too much promiscuity. We need to evolve. If the deeper love I speak about were more prevalent and the search for meaning in our lives was more reverent, there would be less bullshit. If you're really trying to grasp the full concept of what I am expressing, this is a black gay pride message for you kids in "the family". We are on the brink of a new millennium and it's time to get real in every facet of our lives. Going forward is imperative and we can't move ahead without self-love propagating brotherly and sisterly love. Life is too short and the actualization as to what it's all about and what each of us has to do is too vital to our growth to overlook. Seek out the best in you and you'll find it in others. Without a deeper love, the same old superficial, unimaginative stuff will plague our lives and stagnate what could be. Peace, love and strength to you all! Make it happen.

Various Contributors

Am I Black or Am I Gay FIRST?



Welcome To The First Installation Of Clikque Magazine's Topic Of The Month. Each Month We Will Attempt To Bring You Thought-provoking Topics. We hope that you will be enlighten and informed.

zI'm an 18-year-old female from Alabama, and I think that it's important to connect to your Black roots first—or at least attempt to. Although it's easier to be gay and out nowadays, it's still a hard thing in many people's eyes to accept, especially if you are Black because a lot of the Black community still see being gay as 'white folk's stuff'. I, myself, have been out since I was 12, but it's been a struggle. I don't think that there really is a way to put either first because they are both integral parts of who we are. My best advice for anyone struggling with this out there is to say be who you are and don't try to put one before the other because in the end you'll end up losing an important part of yourself.

Brigette, Birmingham, AL

I have dealt with this question in great detail being a black gay male at the University of Michigan. For me I believe that black comes first. I have found the most discrimination against my sexuality from black people. I find that disturbing because I feel that black people and people of color should stick together. But the very first thing that you realize about you, is your color. Some people believe that you are gay from birth but when your parents decide to have you. Their race is already there so you are predetermined before you are conceived. But for most people, you are seen as black, and then later if it is discovered that you are gay, then gay. So I say black then gay.

Juan Solomon II — Ann Arbor, MI

Black or Gay First....Why are we as African-Americans are always choosing to be this or to be that...(i.e. African American or American)? We as a people try to reduce ourselves to one objective or one cause, which in my opinion is limited the any form of advancement. I think the time should be right now that we limit our limits on what we can be and what we can accomplish. With that in mind lets address the topic at hand...black or gay first....neither we are all what God made us to be. We all know the difficulty of being black in America and the struggles of being outsiders WITHIN our very own community which we all live, work, play, and etc.. So why are still try to label ourselves, just for others to use the same labels to keep us against each other. What we as a community need to do is open our minds and stop limit ourselves to one or another. We must learn to fight for whatever there is injustice as human beings...not because of our color or sexual preference. Stop the insanity...avoid choosing labels.

Erick LeBoyd — Concord, NC

We are all Black before anything. But I think your sexuality comes when you mature in life.

Mz. Sparkle, Chicago, IL

The reason that I am writing is to answer your question that was in your magazine in July. The question was are you gay or black first?

This is an age old question, the same as the chicken and the egg. If we believe in what the Bible states" That I knew you in your mothers womb".

Then the answer would have to be Gay first.

If we believe what scientist say then we are Black first, based on the fact that homosexuality is a learned process.

I have thought and pondered over the answer. I believe that we are Gay first. Many people ask me how I come to that conclusion. The reasoning for this is that God knew us in our mothers womb. He said that he makes no useless creatures.

We are black based on things that mankind has brought upon itself. We where made in Gods' image, So the color thing is not the real issue.

Now this Gay thang that people talk, when they see me they see a black man. I can remember hearing while I was growing up I heard " look at that black faggot", I have never heard that for a white man.

I guess that my letter has somewhat may be confusing, I believe that this is an answer that you will have to get from God. Respectfully,

Rev. Renaldo Epps — Claymont, DE

Before I am anything, I am a Child of God, A spirit of greatness. What is so

very bothersome about the question of, "Am I Black or Am I Gay, First? is that so often in the African-American community we are in an ongoing fight for our identity, a search for who we are, who we really are.

For me personally, my identity is in my spirit. Spirit is the true essence of our existence. Before I knew anything about my sexuality or my blackness, I realized that I am a spirit with great potential and destiny and a purpose in life. Spirit allows you to see beyond where you are at the moment, to see the greatness you will become because of the spirit that lives inside each of us. When we examine our race or creed, it identifies our culture, not who we are. When we examine our gayness, it identifies our sexual orientation. When we examine our spirit, we can truly identify who we are, whose we are and what our potential in life is. In other words, when we acknowledge the spirit that lives inside each of us, we establish a sense of self, self-worth and yes, self-respect.

Let me be very clear, there is a difference between spirit and religion. People go to church Sunday after Sunday practicing religion through some formalized doctrine or various denominational faiths. But spirit is the identifiable measure of who we are, how we treat others and ourselves. There are thousands of churchgoers who attend a church service on Sunday and will curse you out on Monday. What's up with that?

With the awesomeness of spirit, we can better understand and accept our blackness and our gayness. There are pastors and churches across this country who speak against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people. However, when we live our lives in truth and spirit, we realize that what others say negatively about us really does not matter. The primary understanding of such an attitude is based on the fact that God loves all of us. Condemnation has no place in our churches because the only judge for our lives is God. God's message is about love and He loves each and every one of us; inspite of us and our shortcomings.

If black gays and lesbians are ever to experience peace and true happiness, it starts within our spirit. Don't forget spirit is the essence of who we are. Relationships among black gays and lesbians are less likely to last because far too often we seek to get to know another when we really don't know who we are as individuals. We want to be in relationships and have partners or lovers, yet we fail to realize that until we are whole as an individual and secure within ourselves, it is impossible to meet another spirit and become one. The spirit of a divine relationship is based on the acceptance of who we are, less putting on a front of those whom we come in contact with.

For the respect of who we are as black gays and lesbians, we must get in touch with our spirit. This will manifest honest relationships and equip us to counteract the negativity of churches and those who seek to condemn and tear down our spirit. The irony of most churches that speak against gays is that they have gay parishioners, musicians, choir members, and directors. That is blatant hypocrisy. If the message is love it should not exempt anyone.

Am I Black or Am I Gay, First? I am Spirit.

Anthony Hollins- Jonesboro, GA

I consider myself to be Black first and foremost. Living in New York where Blacks in general and Black men in particular find themselves under constant attack in this city that 'never sleeps'. I have found that if I enter an elevator and subsequently a white woman or man enters afterwards there is a tension that fills that space until the doors open again. However, I have also seen more effeminate men ride elevators, crowded trains and be in other claustrophobic settings and such events don't occur. Behavior seems to be what sets white people up to be comfortable or ill at ease in the presence of Men of color.

This is inspite of the fact I could put a couple of krafty queens I know in an elevator and those girls will clean the whole car out of wallets, jewelry and all.

My father explained that my being gay should not hamper me in this world because long before anyone could identify me as gay they would see that as I was Black and make their own assumptions based on that fact first. Therefore, I have made my sexual identity a non-issue in my public life. I have a difficult enough time monitoring my own sex life without monitoring someone else's.

Joseph Butcher — Jamaica, NY

First, I must say that it is a sad state of affairs when a self supporting, educated, emotionally stable,spiritually grounded black man with no criminal record is forced to decide which of these realities comes first. Let's say I was openly gay and I am(whatevah that means) then my brothas discriminate because I am not D L. On the other hand the entire world becomes aware that I am black upon my entering any room. Question, do I play down my blackness? Can I be D L in this matter? Why bother?

I like the man I am and as my evolution continues will I be blacker or gayer or possibly more human?

My experience is different from that of many, in my career I work in an environment where it is truly okay to be gay. However experiences with blatant racist situations are not foreign. Thus, homophobia is not an issue and me as a gay man has been promoted twice in my 2.5 year tenure. I have left work in tears a time or two, wanting to show folk how a REAL black man can work it out. I did say I don't have a police record, lets not start now. So I awaken each morning and bond my spirit with that of the ancestors. Connecting myself to the wisdom that provided the strength to endure and survive. Infusing my mind, body, and mouth with the love of my tribal mothers and fathers that only had words of wisdom and encouragement, and thank you GOD for the power of those words. My spirit is the gift of the Universe that no earthly thing can possess, offend or injure.

I invoke the power that existed before time and light a deep breathe and I am on my way. My eyes focus on each person that I encounter and if they look closely the force of the Universe can be seen in them. Love is forced out of each pore of body so that my reminds all of something greater than the both of us.

AND I LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST black and gay !

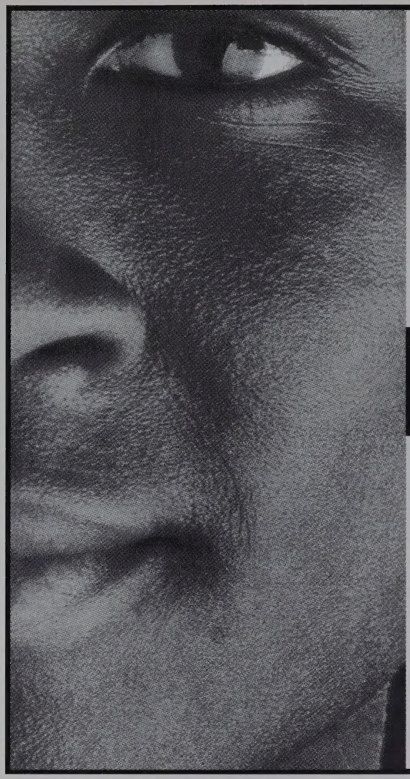
Borris Powell , — Chicago, IL

This question surface up in our everyday lives. Yes it might be hard for some black males to answer this questions but as for me it is so easy to answer. Why is it so easy for me to answer because I was born black before I knew my sexuality. My sexuality doesn't make up my identity. Some gay black males may say they knew their sexuality at a early age or during their adolescence years. If most of my brothas knew their sexual orientation that is wonderful but that should not be our main focus in life. Believe it or not I also think the heterosexual community tend to think of gay people as just being gay. In the years past by, we have made so much progress in society. I do not want people to see me as just being gay. I want people to look at me and say he is a strong brotha with a leveled head. Most of all, I should think that way also before people view me or criticize me. Each and every day I look in the mirror and realize I am a black male full of love and compassion for life. People may prejudge me or taught me but they can't take my pride and knowledge because I know this 23 year-old brotha will succeed in life. Again I will say I AM A PROUD BLACK MALE AND WITH NO DOUBT I AM A PROUD NUBIAN GAY BROTHA.

R.D.- Troy, AL

My immediate reaction to Clikque's September Topic was that being black and gay go hand in hand since one is as much a part of my life as the other;

Continues on Page 52



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— 2 Timothy 2:15

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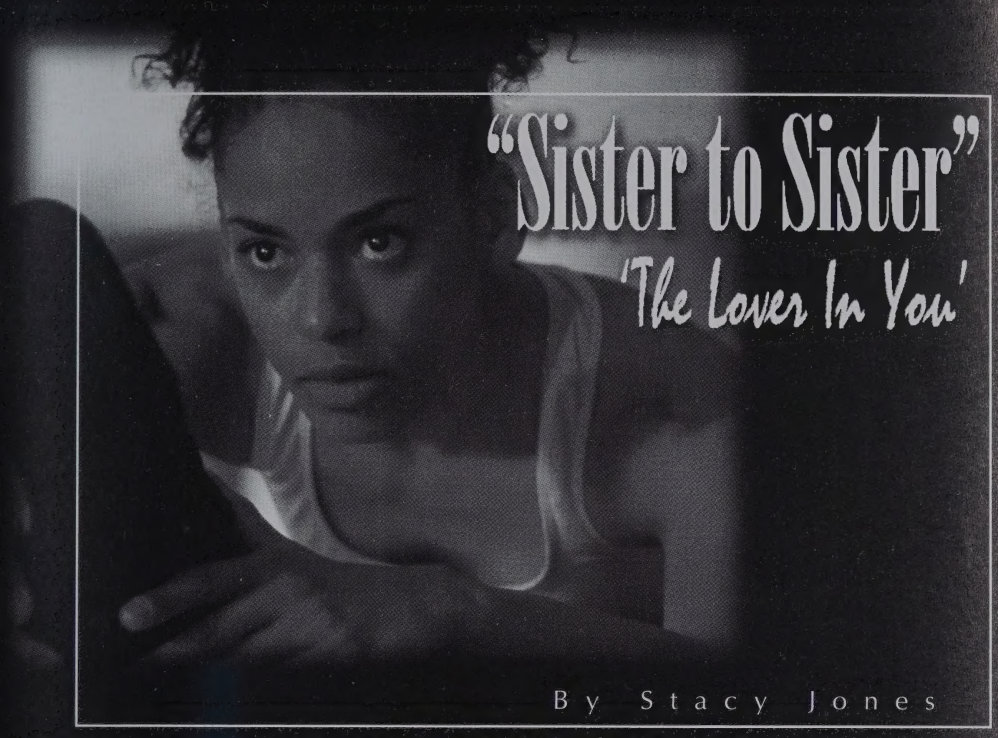

"Sister to Sister"

'The Lover In You'

By Stacy Jones

Sista's tell me how you feel. Okay, I'll tell you how I feel. I'm a 25 year-old stud, fairly intelligent, not bad looking basically an average person. Besides that I'm also a mother, I had my son when I was 16 years-old, I know its a familiar story so let me be the one to tell it. When I was young I was wild. I was wild because of the lack of love I received in my home, growing up in a single parent home the youngest of four, all with different fathers. When I tell people some of the things I went thru I often get a strange look, as if there's a sense of pity but hell I thought the shit was normal so I was never ashamed to tell it. To make a long story short cause it would take forever to run it down, I'll just skip over all the little details and just say as a child you name it, I did it. My sexual encounters started when I was 5 years-old, some call it molestation but I say I knew what was going on and I wasn't forced to do anything. I just thought I was grown cause my boyfriend was 14. I grew up in California so violence and gangs were all I knew besides the verbal and physical abuse I endured at home. I used to go to bed and pray that when I woke up I would be all grown up so I could get away. As years went by the lack of love in my life and the abuse made me very bitter as a young woman, nobody loved me so I didn't know how to love myself. I latched onto the boys to try to find that love I felt I was missing and at 15 that love turned out to be a beautiful little boy. I struggled alone to raise my child with no help but I did whatever I had to do.

Finally I had someone to love me without conditions. Most of my bitterness went away, he turned into my reason for living. As the years went by my attitude changed, when I looked into his eyes I grew stronger as a woman. Soon God had given me a clearer outlook on life and I was more in touch with my own needs and now that one gap was filled, I could go on to the next. At the age of 21 when I came into the life everything happened so fast, I was excited about this new feeling that made me so happy.° I think that without knowing I was still searching for that love my mother never had time to give me, so of course a man was never the answer. I became so involved in finding the right woman till it became all I knew. Between working 12 to 16 hours a day and hoe chasing thinking these females gave a shit about me, I didn't notice I was taking away from the one love I already had, my child. After 7 years of raising him alone I felt it was time for his father to take his turn. Besides I didn't want him to see all the drama I was going thru with my relationships.

So now what? Did I choose this lifestyle over my child? Am I any happier now than I was 10 years ago?

In the past 4 years, I have been involved with about 30 women. I've slept with 28 of those women and I'm single right now. You tell me if you think I'm happy. I can say that about 90% of my lesbian sisters have been thru situations somewhat similar to mine because we sit and talk about it all the time. And after so many heartaches in my relationships, I've come to a conclusion.

If I were gay by choice, I would've given it up a long time ago cause its not worth what I've been through. But since its not something I can just let go of, I have to find a way to make some kind of sense out of this whole mess. I used to pray that God would send me a lover that would love me as much as I could love them. I often wonder if my punishment for being gay is misery. As it seems, I've been praying the same prayer for 4 years and it hasn't been answered yet. Or has it? Maybe the best lover for me, is me.

These days the word love is used so freely among people, that it has seemed to have lost its meaning. Lets stop looking for the next person to love us more than we love ourselves, and lets stop loving the next person more than we love ourselves. Like they day over and over..... "Love Don't Love Nobody".

Till we meet again, let us keep praying for ourselves and each other.

In The Life
In The Spirit

" HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, LET HIM CAST A STONE."

Brothers and Sisters as I began to write this months article of, "IN THE LIFE, IN THE SPIRIT," I thought back over the last six months and appreciated the opportunity to write, express, and minister to those of you who read my article. You cannot know how wonderful it is to have someone step to you with words of encouragement telling you to keep on keeping on! Or to have letters and emails written to the magazine saying that we as writers have inspired and aided in your liberation/self identification. For this I am very grateful! It is my prayer that GOD will use me (us) with this publication to continue to help set my brothers and sisters free! This month's article is dedicated to a few people that have made a difference in my life. My mother, Dorothy Stewart Bailey for her support and friendship even when she doesn't understand me, her "GAY" son, and for her unconditional love that binds us together mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. To my dear friends; Wallace Henry, Tracey Williams, Leon Parham, Jeffrey Fletcher, and Asha Said who believe in me. They have shown me true love, kindness, and honesty in ways that are above your normal friendship. I trust them and love them! Finally, to three brothers who recently confirmed my calling by their encouraging words of support; Kirk (from Albany, Ga.), Chris, and David Richardson. We need more brothers like you three and I'm glad our paths have crossed!!!

In preparation of this month's article, the biblical story of the women caught in the act of adultery continued to come into my thoughts. As I meditated, it confirmed for me that if GOD be for you, HE is more than the world against you! The story (St. John 8: 1-11.) tells how a woman was caught in the act of adultery and brought before JESUS to test his response to the Mosiac Law. As Jesus listened to the scribes and Pharisees (today's gossipers, nay sayers, and character accusers), he did nothing but write in the sand. The scribes and the Pharisees continued to try to pressure JESUS to respond; so he did! His words were; "he that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Realizing that they were not sin free each scribe and Pharisees walked away one by one! The woman who had been brought forth stood alone from her accusers with JESUS as he asked,"woman where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?" The woman said, "No man, Lord." Then JESUS said,"Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more!"

As I meditated on this story over and over I thought how society would and does want to stone every Gay and Lesbian person in sight. I have come to a place of knowing that being Gay is not a sin so I don't worry about our modern day scribes or Pharisees. What pains me more is the insult, slander, and backbitting that exist in our own community, the Gay community at large. Brothers and sisters in the life, sometimes it seems like we are our own worst enemy! We keep up so much drama, gossip and negative energy about each other it's a wonder sometimes that we don't kill each other off! For example, have you ever had a friend who always seem to be jealous of someone cause of their appearance, intelligence, skin color, job, friends, lover, etc. That friend of yours always finds something negative to say about someone that you are sure they don't even know! Are you ever as guilty as your friend is! Take a moment, think about it; this type of behavior will never unite our community, it will only add to the madness!!!

It's easy to say,". If you live in a glass house don't throw stones." Some how we feel like

we are advocates of others feelings when we think this way! But are we really? First of all I don't think any of us want to live in a glass house or closet! That doesn't sound stable at all. Therefore, we've come to build walls that say, "Its my house and I live here and what you do in your house is your business and what I do in my house is mine," Realistically we perpetuate a community that is separate and divided. Where will it all end! How can we take player hating and our broken relationships and make them into healthy friendships/associations. O.K. family here's the plan: JUST SAY NO!, DON'T THROW STONES!!!

- **SAY NO TO GOSSIP**;(turn a deaf ear to juicy stories and rumors)
- **SAY NO TO JEALOUSY**; (don't covet someone else success; remember what GOD has for you is for you.)
- **SAY NO TO SELFISHNESS**; (give a little, you generally get back a whole lot more.)
- **SAY NO TO LIES AND DECEIT**; (truth will always prevail.)

This by far is not the strategy in total but it's a great place to start. When I think about the story at the beginning of the article about the women caught in adultery, I realize wrong is wrong, but to campaign against her doesn't make it right! Imagine how she felt during this public trial! I'm sure she had to feel as if she was of the bottom of the barrel! Her name was literally dragged through the mud. But moving forward, was she set free from her own mistakes.

In closing, my thoughts are that we need to learn how to set each other free. Not to tear each other down and make a mockery of the shortcomings of others. We must learn to be the standard and the models for others to learn and grow by. To fear is human but to forgive is divine. Let us learn to reach out and pull each other up to the standards that we believe in, and instead of throwing stones use them to build strong foundations for us all to stand on! In order to receive love we must learn to give love. Sometimes your happiness maybe realized as a result of making someone else happy! So, I challenge every reader to take time out today and make someone happy and see what a difference it makes in your day and in your life!!!

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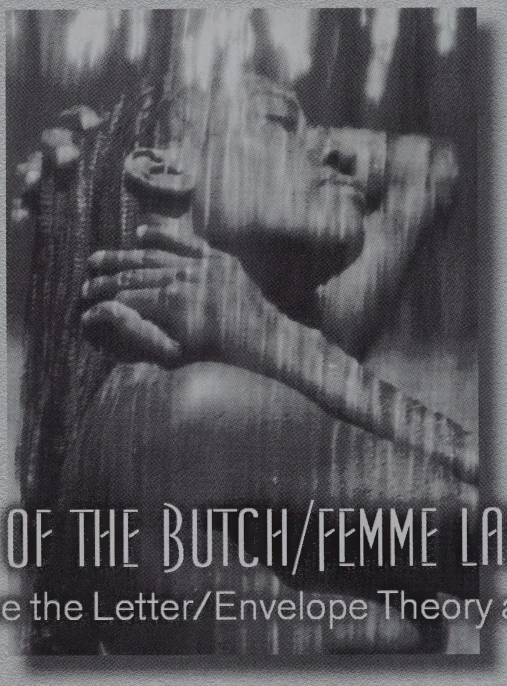
I have been gay since I was five years old. I just didn't know what it was called at the time. It all started around the second or third day of first grade. I will absolutely never forget the image of seeing my first grade teacher's long chocolate legs dangling from her knee length skirt.

It was at that beautiful moment, I became a Lesbian.

I truly didn't understand what I was feeling, but I did know that I had a strong unexplainable desire for another female. And a much older female at that. And as the years passed I had even more strong desires for many, many other females. The condition simply wouldn't let up.

Rather than facing reality and dealing with who I was, I remained silent and closeted for 19 years after those initial days of drooling over Miss Anderson.

When I got past puberty and into the college years I started to really weigh out my options. I was, of course, scared of what my family would think, say and do. My friends would no doubt outcast me into the ex-friend lake-of-fire. Sorority sisters would deny my existence completely. And let's not forget about the all too true proverbial societal fears and prejudices that exist in our world. We won't even mention "TheBlack Community."



TIRED OF THE BUTCH/FEMME LABELS?

Give the Letter/Envelope Theory a try!

BY KATHERINE GANDY

Therefore that left me with only one viable choice. I had to find "Mr. Right." There was only one little problem, I kept running into "Mr.-Not-Quite-My-Type-But-Wait-A-Minute-Is-Your-Sister-Single?"

By my mid-twenties I exasperated the fine pickin's of men and had reached my max.

Now, not to take anything away from men, but quite frankly I was getting bored with this search for the perfect guy. Especially when I knew in my heart, that I would never find what I was looking for from a man. Four years ago, I finally decided to live my life and be true to myself. Finally, I was going to be proud to admit that I was indeed an African-American lesbian.

After I did decide to stop playing around and acknowledge that I was gay, I realized that I had been one of the biggest homophobiacs around. I had talked negatively about homosexuality, made jokes, snide remarks and anything else to appear so far removed from anything remotely regarded as being gay. The truth, was that on the inside I was deftly afraid of the image or representation I had grown accustomed to seeing of gay women. The thought of me being a lesbian would always raise certain questions in my mind. Would I too have to look so "butch" to be gay? Would I too be regarded as a "bull dagger" as my Aunt Gladys had so often loving referred to lesbians?

By nature I had always been a tomboy. Yet on occasion, I did like to get my nails done and I sometimes liked to wear lipstick and mascara. Some days I would get really crazy and put on a skirt. Would not these aesthetic wishes get in the way with being a lesbian?

I guess right about now I could stop and give a speech on the "labeling" that we lesbians identify ourselves. I could go into how we are all individuals in our own way and that under no circumstances should we take on "butch" or "femme" labels or roles. But that wouldn't be very realistic. You would probably say I was full of bullshit and no doubt continue perusing the other articles of this publication.

So I even won't go there. I will, however, offer up a theory that I have been working on for a brief time. Basically the theory makes it easier for me personally to swallow the labeling that goes on within our big lesbian circle. And if you, like me have a hard time deciphering a soft butch from an aggressive soft femme or a butch butch femme from a hard soft butch then follow me on this one for a minute.

I give you the letter and the envelope theory. There are two types of lesbians. There are your letter lesbians and then there are your envelope lesbians.

Letter lesbians are going to traditionally be the softer, the more gentile side of the partnership. They are going to be the ones with classic whip appeal. The long flirty eyelashes. Blouses full of cleavage. Lips full of rich color and hair that is always done. They may speak softly but you best believe they carry a big stick. The stick of power that is. They without question are the actual ones in charge. Please make no mistake about this part of the theory.

On the flipside, the envelope is the "harder" one if you will. Maybe she wears pants to church. Perhaps she will slip on a baseball cap because she missed her appointment with her stylist or her barber even. She will probably be the one who will say "I gotta get home, my baby is cooking dinner tonight." She will also be the one who proudly proclaims "I take care of my woman, she has everything she wants and needs." (Note the power of the letter.)

You now should have an idea into which category you fall, more or less. However, I am not claiming to have the perfect theory so here are a few questions that will help further determine if you are a letter or if you are an envelope.

Do you find yourself doing the dinner and a movie thing and you are consistently whipping out the Amex card or Visa? You are probably the envelope.

Do you rehearse how to present an idea to your girlfriend that you know you might get some resistance on, and decide to douse on a little extra perfume to perhaps get your point across? You would be the letter.

Constantly under the hood of the car? Envelope. Constantly in the mirror? Letter.
Unscrewing difficult containers of food? Envelope. Handing difficult to open containers of food to your lover? Letter.

But, here is the most endearing determination of all.

J&W, J2K, TRE's Says
THANK YOU
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www.blackgaytravel.com

The letter and the envelope when together literally form a perfect fit. In other words look at you and your woman. Okay, now physically look at you and your woman. Is she shorter, perhaps a smaller frame than you? Do you find yourself sleeping peacefully snuggled with your lady pulled close to your heart? Are your arms wrapped around her body holding her? Do you find that you are completely happy with the feeling and emotion of protecting and shielding her from whatever goes bump in the night? Does she feel totally protected and happy with you surrounding her? If you are predominantly doing most of the holding then you are probably the envelope. If she is the one mostly being held then she is probably the letter.

Bear in mind that with any theory there will be the critics that just don't quite grasp the given philosophy, and that's okay. To the rest of you who cringe when you hear words like "butch" or "bull dagger" or for you ladies that aren't so swift to raise your hand to "pillow princess" go ahead and embrace your new found identities.

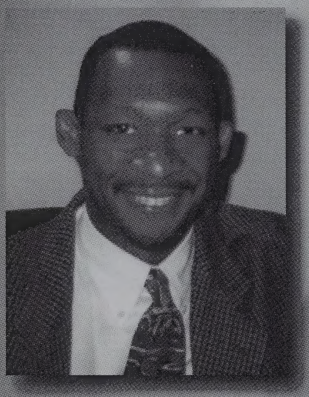
And the next time someone asks "which one are you?" or "what is your partner?" Just tell them you are the letter or the envelope. I guarantee that will probably shut them up.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO

Just Holding Hands?

THIS MONTH'S TOPICS IS ABOUT-WHAT ELSE; SEX. NO JUST KIDDING, THAT WAS LAST MONTH. THANKS FOR ALL THE FEEDBACK FROM THAT ONE. WHEW!!!

I'D LIKE TO BROACH A SUBJECT OR SITUATION THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE FACING. DATING AGAIN? AFTER BEING IN RELATIONSHIP FOR YEARS, HOW



DOES ONE START TO "DATE AGAIN"? THERE ARE OR SHOULD BE A MULTITUDE OF QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS ASKED BEFORE WADING INTO THE DATING CESSPOOL.

CESSPOOL WAS RATHER HARSH, I APOLOGIZE. I'LL SHARE WITH YOU THAT I MYSELF AM RECENTLY DIVORCED FROM A 4 1/2 YEAR RELATIONSHIP AND HAVE CONCERNS GALORE ABOUT THIS DATING MADNESS. I HAVE YET TO ENGAGE IN IT, BUT FROM LISTENING TO THE HORROR STORIES OF MY FRIENDS WHO ARE DATING, I'M REALLY NOT EAGER TO TREAD THOSE WATERS AT ALL.

QUESTION ONE: WHEN DOES ONE START TO DATE AGAIN AFTER THE RELATIONSHIP ENDS? BELOW ARE A FEW POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS. (polledfrom various sources)

- 1 YEAR (no that's the mourning period if your mate dies)
- 6 MTHS (maybe, but just for coffee/drinks)
- 3 MTHS (possibly a group outing- per Martha Stewart)
- 1 MTH (a bit soon wouldn't you say9.)
- 1-2 WEEKS (child, were you ever really in a relationship?)

QUESTION TWO: ASSUMING YOU HAVE WAITED YOUR APPROPRIATE TIME FRAME- WHERE DO YOU GO ON THE DATE?

- YOUR PLACE (Hmm?, what does this really say?)
- HIS/HER PLACE (Hmm? what are you walking into?)
- BAR/CLUB (Hmm? sand to the beach theory-not recommended)
- RESTAURANT (Hmm? usually a safe bet- not much is expected)

QUESTION THREE: ONCE THE DATE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND YOU'RE AT THE RESTAURANT- WHO PAYS?

- YOU PAY (But you're thinking, surely they will leave the tip? THEY PAY (But you're thinking, surely they will include the tip?
- GO DUTCH (We're not in Norway love, who does this anymore?

QUESTION FOUR: AFTER DINNER IS OVER, WHAT NEXT?

- DANCING? (Now, where can we as a couple go dancing? Refer to the sand-beach theory mentioned earlier.? (Not recommended- unless you go to a bar outside the norm)
- MOVIES? (Usually ideal, for you're not forced to create stimulating dialogue all night?

Continues On Page 29

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Continued From Page 14

they had the unmitigated gall to have three white gay men at the table. Apparently, they needed the white gay community's input on how to reach Black people inside of Black churches. Can somebody say Massa? I can't! Fact: GlaxoWellcome is sponsoring a HIV University targeting Black women to teach them how to teach other Black women about living with HIV. You guessed it, the University is run by White women. In 1999 GlaxoWellcome still believes that white folks know what is best for Black folks. Can you say: "how ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm?" Last year GlaxoWellcome had some small grants available to get inner city homeless people into treatment services. Do I really have to tell you who got the money? Is the picture coming into focus now?

GlaxoWellcome is apparently suffering from some age old afflictions: the ideology of White Supremacy, the "Good Old Boy" Network and Institutionalized Racism. GlaxoWellcome has developed a storied history of coming into our communities with their heavy handed, arrogant and insensitive tactics practically dictating to us what to do. At least the other companies ask us what can they do to help. GlaxoWellcome makes AZT, 3TC, Combivir, Ziagen (Abacavir) and other medications. They've been in this business long enough to know better. I guess they just don't care.

Have a wonderful Pride Weekend. You can call us at (214) 421-4343 for assistance or e-mail your comments to Vaquinn@compuserve.com.

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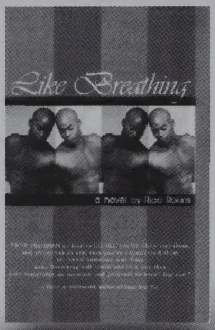
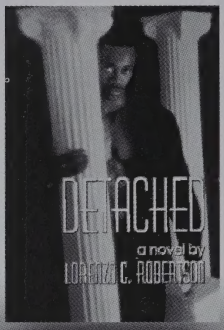
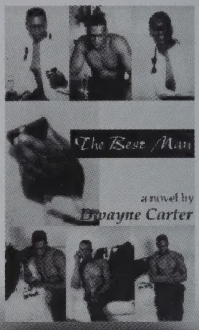
For us, By us . . .







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Continued From Page 26

- DRIVING? Mid-town is only so big. Driving up/down Cypress wouldn't be a recommended first date activity. Just trust me on this one!
- PARKING? Okay, my Tennessee heritage is showing. But people still actually sit in cars and do stuff...IE talking. Not recommended, for it shows lack of creativity, imagination and more importantly -lack of funds.

QUESTION FIVE: OKAY, THE NIGHT IS ENDING, (it's rather late) WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

- HANDSHAKE (If you took separate cars to the event, you can only shake their hand and say call me?- hoping they will) *Note- please don 't try to tickle their hand while shaking it. That is so incredibly tacky.
- THE KISS AT THE DOOR: Closed mouth- says "thanks for the free-meal/movie but no love connection" Open mouth/tongue- says "that was some meal and I kind of like you." Continuous Deep-Tongue- says " I think we should Go inside and continue this Tonsillectomy.
- FOREPLAY HOW DO WE DEFINE IT?

  GRINDING? (We did this as children- you know, we called it hunching?) HIGHLY Recommended, for it is safe and no body fluids are exposed)

  FRA-TAGE- (It's french- for hunching) Sometimes called Outercourse- This is similar to grinding but done naked. Somewhat risky for you may come in contact with the other person's body fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal secretions or the dreaded pre-cum. Fluids which can transmit HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

  ORAL SEX OK, somebody had to mention it.

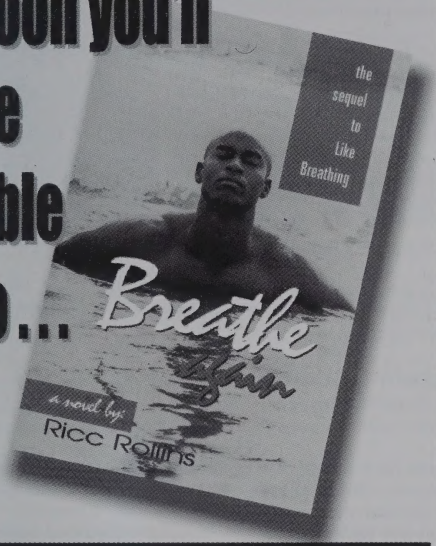
  SUCKING: Has been labeled a wonderful (the penis) vessel on which to travel. If done properly, the results can be immeasurable. Without a condom, it's ok but be aware of bleeding gums and dental hygiene. With a flavored condom, go for it. Highly Recommended.

  SUCKING (the anus) You may know it as TOSSING SALAD, or the Clinical phrase ORAL-ANAL contact. This is where one Puts their tongue up the Other person's rectum. Once again, if done properly, the results can be phenomenal. However, Not necessarily a Recommended first date activity- however there are always exceptions

OKAY, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW. ANYTHING FURTHER WOULD CONSTITUTE SEX AND I COULDN'T POSSIBLY SUGGEST INTERCOURSE FOR THE INITIAL DATING SEQUENCE. THOSE DECISIONS YOU CAN OR WILL HAVE TO MAKE ON YOUR OWN. LIKE I'M SAYING, IT'S NOT EASY BEING IN THE DATING FIELD. IN CLOSING I WILL ADD THAT WHATEVER YOU DO, CONTINUE TO DO IT SAFELY. PLAY TO WIN AND PLAY TO STAY AROUND TO PLAY AGAIN. ALWAYS USE PRECAUTIONS AND LATEX CONDOMS OR BARRIERS WHENEVER NECESSARY. AS ALWAYS, WE LOVE YOU, LOVE YOURSELF....BE SAFE.

The wait is almost over . . .

Soon you'll be able to...



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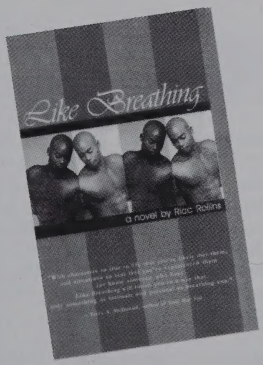

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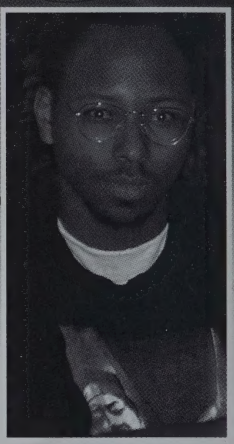
My Beat

B. Graff Rucker - Gainesville, FL



Joe Thomas

Just What the Doctor Ordered
DiverseCity Records

Atlanta favorite Joe Thomas has been making his presence felt locally through his DiverseCity label, and after establishing an audience base with releases from techno and choral groups, he drops his debut recording. Thomas is a refreshing voice in this age of self-obsessed performers because he specializes in socially conscious lyrics that touch on racism, relationships, respect and community, particularly on the moving "I'll Be There For You" and the cover of the Staple Singers' "Respect Yourself," which is also the first single.

Unfortunately, his message is diluted by underwhelming backing tracks, especially the drum arrangements, which at times had me thinking I was listening to classic New Jack Swing instead of a late 1990s production. And in today's environment, if your beats aren't up to par you won't be heard, regardless of how heartfelt your lyrics are. With more live instrumentation or the use of better equipment, Thomas may find a warmer reception with his future efforts, but I was left wanting more from this talented man. People looking for an uplifting message in their music will be pleased with this disc. But despite the title, this is not prescribed to those looking for the latest innovations in r&b music.

Gwen Guthrie

The Ultimate Collection
Hip-O

Earlier this year, we reported on the untimely death of Gwen Guthrie from cancer. As a tribute to her life, The Ultimate Collection has just been released, and what a treat it is. More than just a celebration of her talent, the 14 tracks here confirm her legacy as one of the most distinctive stylists of the 1980s. Opening with her best known selection, "Ain't Nothing Goin' On But the Rent," the disc showcases the diversity of her talent, from the pioneering work with Sly & Robbie of the early 80s to her self-produced works from later in her career. Moods range from the playful "Padlock" and "Younger Than Me" to the sensitive handling of ballads on "Oh Donny No," (a tribute to Donny Hathaway) and "Oh What A Life." Guthrie's ability to transform others' material with her unique voice is evidenced on her covers of Bob Marley's "Is This Love" and the pop chestnut "They Long to be Close to You," turning the definition of saccharine pop music into something you actually want to hear.

Lovingly packaged with comments from her family, discographical information and an insightful essay, this is a worthy testament to a very special talent.

Polyrhythm Addicts

Rhyme Related
Nervous

Can there be a supergroup in the world of independent hip-hop? If so, this is as likely as we're going to get. An all-star assemblage of the skilled Apani B. Fly Emcee, Mr. Complex, Shabaam Sahdeeq and DJ Spinna, all of whom have recorded well-received solo tracks, the Addicts evoke memories of vintage 1992-era hip-hop. That is, solid rhymes that aren't about clothes, money or the thug life, supported by mellowed out beats.

It's becoming rare these days to find albums that rely more on skill than image or hype, and Rhyme Related is largely free of gimmicks such as skits or guest appearances by r&b singers. Legend Pharoah Monche from Organized Konfusion does appear on the chorus of "Take Me Home," but it speaks to the group's definition of quality hip-hop that they chose him instead of, say, Jay-Z. The rhymes are packed with quality lyrics and wordplay, as each emcee, limited to one verse instead of their usual three or four, sounds determined to put that much more feeling into the mic. With Spinna's arsenal of jazzy loops guiding the narratives beautifully, it's not difficult to hear why he's one of the rising producers in the industry.

An example of the sum being greater than its part, this is one of the most satisfying rap albums I've heard all year.

Jamiroquai

Synkronized
Sony

"You know this boogie is for real!"
This line is the refrain from the single off the new Jamiroquai album and a point the band has been trying to make for years. Ever since its first release in 1992, the group has been the subject of serious player-hating by people who are basically envious of their success. But the reality is that few bands this decade have dedicated themselves to the funk like Jay Kay and his merry man, and in some ways this is their most enjoyable record yet.

entertainment news

By B. Graff Rucker - Staff

Aimed primarily for dancing, the band's fascination with 70s black dance music has now got them incorporating stronger disco grooves than ever before, as "Canned Heat" aptly demonstrates. The dawn of a more mature and focused Jamiroquai emerges with the slamming "Supersonic," where the band showcases their signature instrument, the didgeridoo, and the smooth "Butterfly." This album also carries a more personal aura as well with two tracks seemingly aimed at former bassist Stuart Zender, "Black Capricorn Day" and the scathing "King for a Day."

Hate the man's sense of style if you must, but give him and his band props for delivering top notch albums that, I dare say, will be regarded as classics in the future.

BREAKING NEWS:

At press time, it was reported that **Tevin Campbell** had been arrested a few months ago on a charge for solicitation of lewd acts. He allegedly propositioned an undercover Los Angeles police officer. Two responses: 1) Doesn't LAPD have anything better to do? 2) I hope Campbell finds the same kind of support by his fans and the music industry as **George Michael** when he was in a similar situation. Ready or not, welcome to the family Tevin....Trouble is brewing for Teddy Riley. The r&b innovator had his vanity label Lil Man cut off by parent company Interscope. No word about the fate of labelmate **Queen Pen** or the rumors of **Blackstreet's** demise, but **Riley** is working on the **Guy** reunion disc....Prince is again working with a major label. He recently agreed to have his new album distributed by Arista. It is said to be a return to the party-oriented Prince of the 1980s.... **Lenny Kravitz** is recording a track with the Roots for their live album, due this year. In less inspiring rap/rock fusions, you can add the execrable **Kid Rock** to the list of "artists" recording with **Run DMC** for its comeback record, along with **Sugar Ray** and **Aerosmith**. Can anyone say "crossover sales on the brain?" ...

Net based news: Fans of **Me'Shell Ndegeocello** can order a custom disc of remixes and live performances when they buy her new album online. Hurry up because the offer ends September 30... BET is opening an Internet portal with the help of Microsoft, USA Networks and others. I hope the site is better than the channel...In any event, they will get competition from Globalmecca.com, a new company dedicated to the uplift of African-Americans...

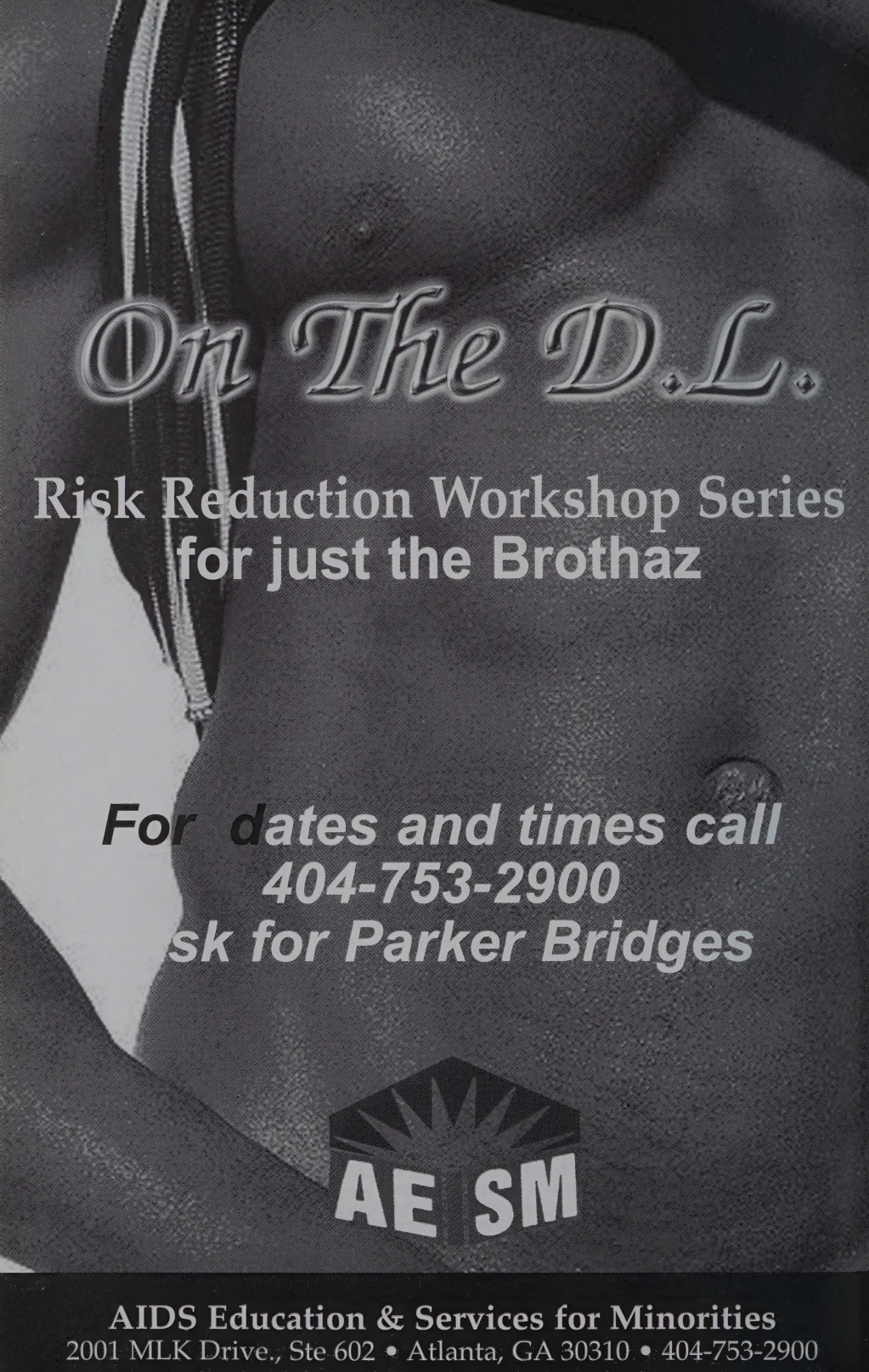
Business moves: **Jermaine Dupri** joins the list of rappers establishing ventures outside of rhyming with the launch of **So So Def** sports management. JD has clients already lined up and is eager to prove his guidance can work for athletes as well as singers....In a surprise move, **Dru Hill** has scored production and label deals for each member under the Dru World Order. Def Jam will be overseeing the project.

TUBE NEWS:

Eriq Lasalle set it off in a major way when he signed for $27 million to do the next three years of ER. This has got to be close to a record for a TV actor. Maybe now NBC will make him a more prominent character....**Rahsaan Patterson, Chante Moore, K-Ci** and **JoJo** and **BB King** are among the stars of a CBS miniseries on the origin of rock music. Titled "Shake, Rattle and Roll," it features long lost **Terence Trent D'Arby** as **Jackie Wilson**...**Busta Rhymes** has agreed to play **Samuel L. Jackson's** sidekick in the remake of Shaft. The man brings so much energy to his work that he may make the movie worth watching....Tavis Smiley is threatening to leave BET if he can't tape his show from California. Am I the only one rejoicing at the thought of his tired ass not being on my screen?

BAD NEWS:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) just made a ruling that allows the same company to own several TV and radio stations in the same city. Like sweepstakes rules, certain restrictions apply, but the bottom line is access to media is becoming harder and harder for people of color. The chair of the FCC, William Kennard, is a black man, he should be ashamed...The Fraternal Order of Police is starting a boycott of all artists who voice support of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Philadelphia journalist who was wrongfully convicted of murder (i.e., set up) and is on death row. The group's efforts include keeping a list of supports on its website and its president has been quoted as saying "we will not rest until Abu-Jamal burns in Hell.." An update on the KPFA crisis mentioned last month: the station's gag order was lifted and programming resumed as normal, but now the Pacifica organization has hit the station with a mandate to increase and diversify audience size in six months, a nearly impossible task, especially for a public station. This is a set up move on behalf of Pacifica to regain control of the station under the charge of being a "poor performer" in ratings. KPFA is the only one of Pacifica's stations to be subjected to these new demands. The battle continues.....



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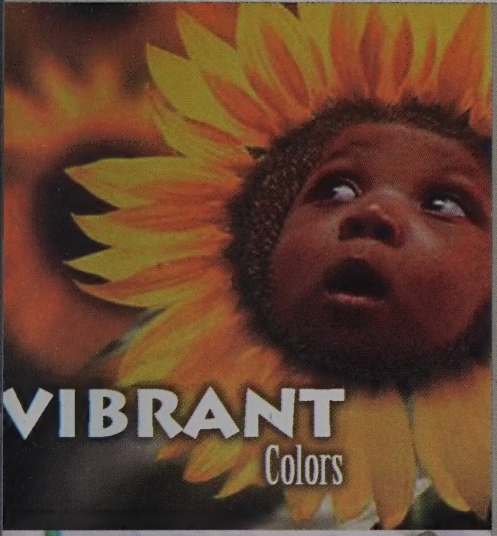

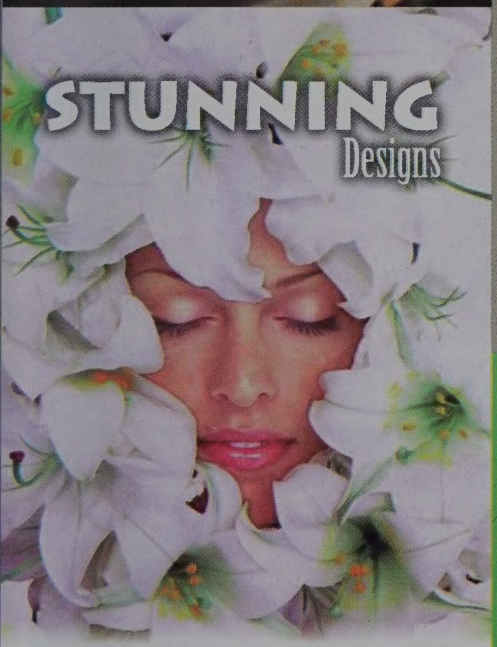

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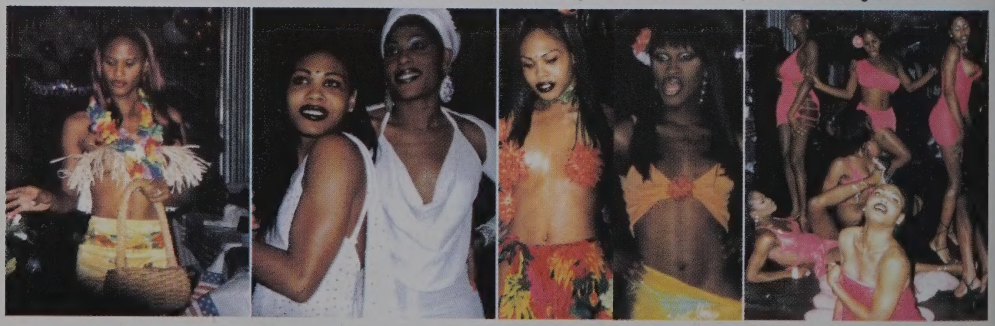
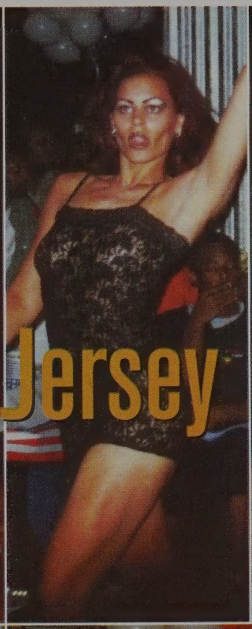
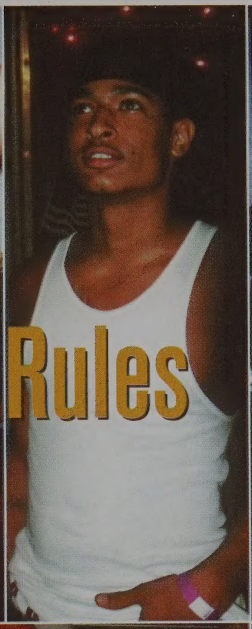
state vs. state ball

Atlanta, georgia • july, 1999

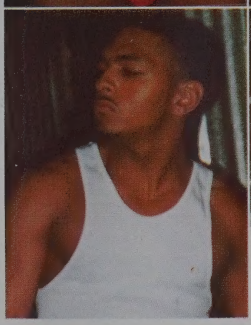
Wow , wow, wow is basically the best way to describe the most recent State Vs. State Ball hosted by Andre Mizrahi and the city of Atlanta, last years winners. Without a doubt, this was probably one of the best balls for the year. Great job Andre! The awards (pictured to the opposite page) were FIERCE. Dominating the event were House representatives from various cities such as New York, Washington DC, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Virginia, and New Jersey. Although the houses representing the city of Atlanta made a stella attempt to keep it's hands on the top award, those kids from New Jersey just wasn't havin it! Not only did they come in great numbers, but they came with precision and was definitely on point. Atlanta was leading after the first few categories when New Jersey began to just run away with most of the remaining categories of the night. When we (CLIKQUE) first got a glimpse of the Jersey kids in the opening march, we knew that we were in for an exceptional event. AWESOME JOB NEW JERSEY. Much

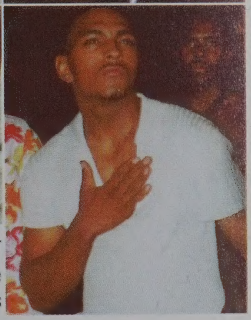
respect is also due to the kids from Atlanta, they made a great showing and added to a very competitive night. Props go out to André and Eric Bazaar for not allowing the ball walkers to question the judges decisions. This allowed the ball to flow along much smoother with less fuss. The next State Vs. State Ball will be held in New Jersey, who will be ready to defend their title. See you there. But until then, look for us during the MLK celebra-



New Jersey Rules

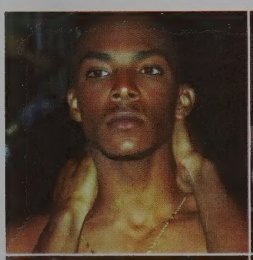


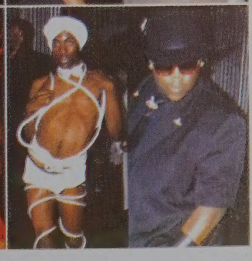


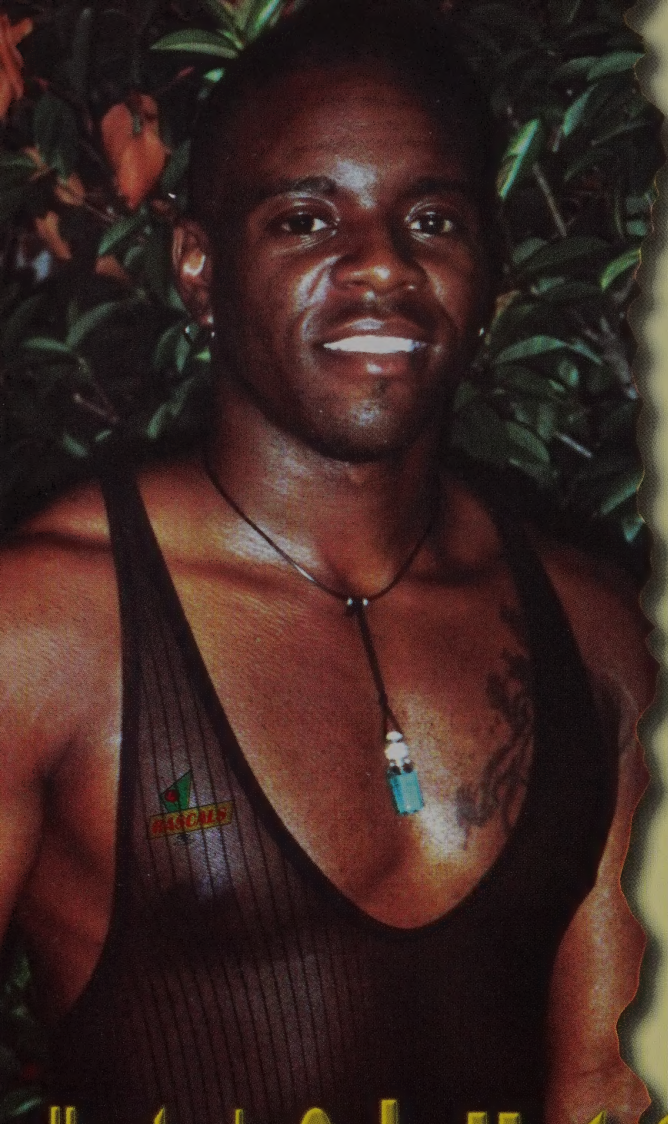
tion in Atlanta for the Clikque Magazine Millennium Ball. I hear that the grand prize is $1200.00 and that the winner of one of the face categories will be chosen for Clikque's April 2000 Cover. See next month's issue for all of the details. Or Call us at 404-486-9655 for more details.

state vs. state ball

Atlanta, georgia • july, 1999







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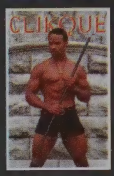

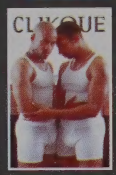

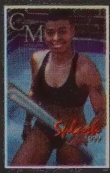

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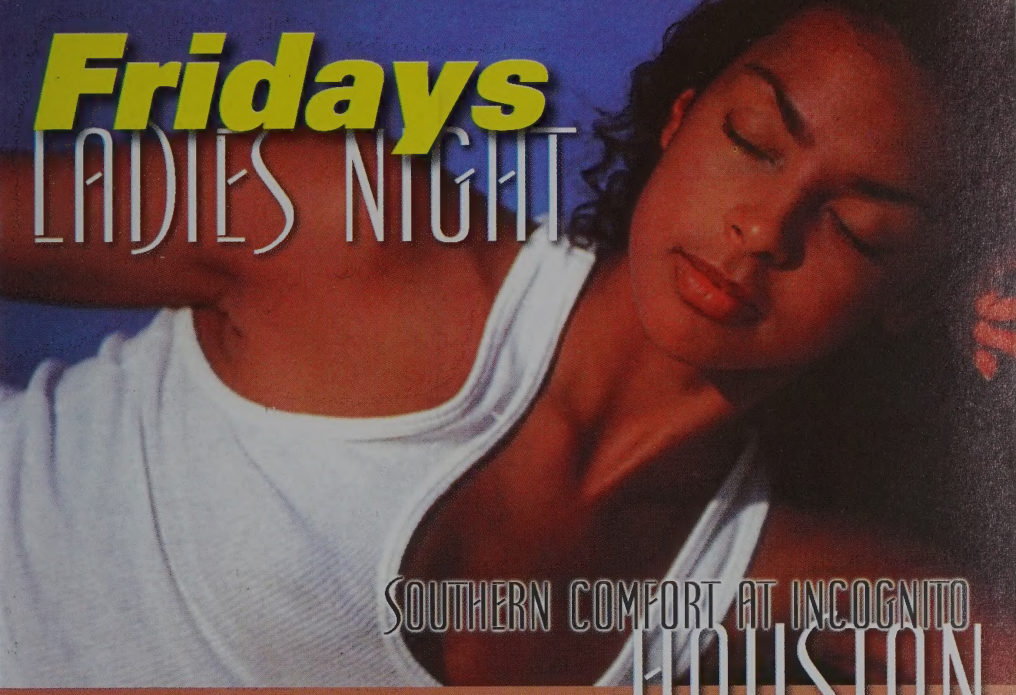

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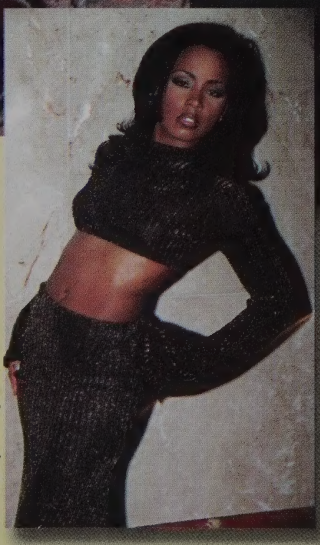
Clikque Introduces Taj



Photos by Dwight Powell

Look at what we've prepared for you this month. Taj is a 25 year old Capricorn standing her ground at 5' 8". Presently pursuing a degree in Business Management at Georgia Tech, Taj comes to us from New Jersey. When Taj isn't attending classes, she can be found instructing aerobic classes at a gym near you. She's also a personal trainer.

Taj enjoys modeling, acting, fitness, mountain bike riding, traveling and weightlifting. This sexy goddess is also community service minded. She enjoys lending her time and energies to various service organizations and groups.

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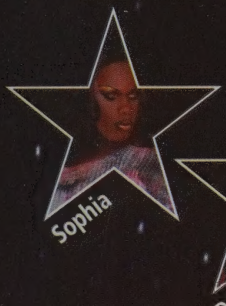

Show hosted by the Hilarious Sophia McIntosh & her witty side kick Dominique Rashad. Starring : Necole Luv Dupree, R'Darius Black, Stasha Sanchez, Sophia McIntosh, The Mother of Atlanta - Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Dominique Rashad, Mr. Black Universe - Monté St. James, Miss Black Universe - Raquel Lord and a host of special guests.

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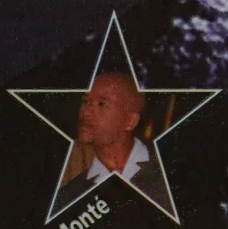

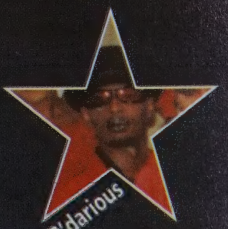

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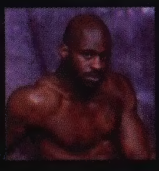
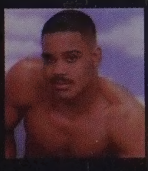
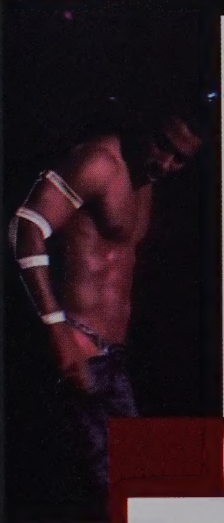
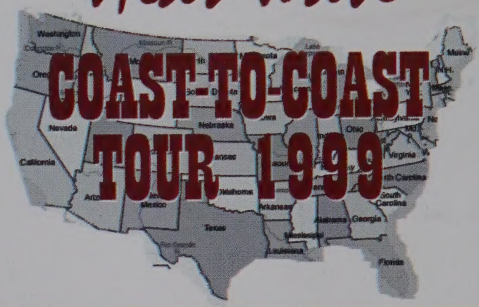






"Heat Wave"



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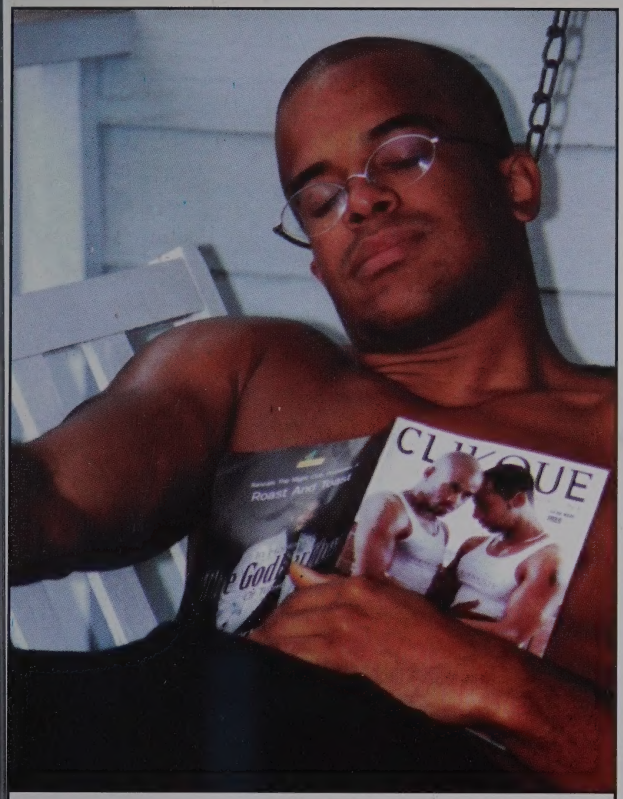

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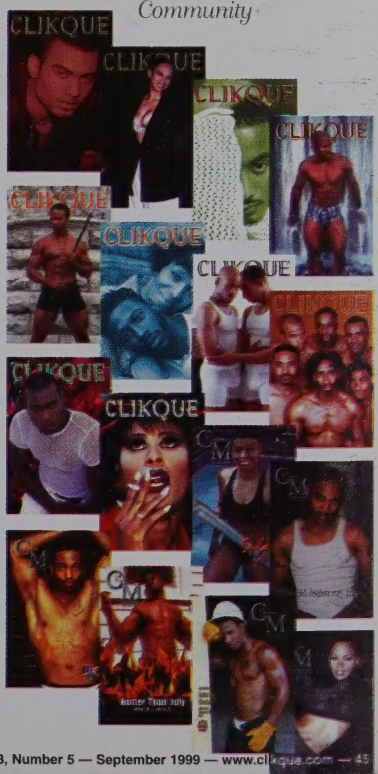

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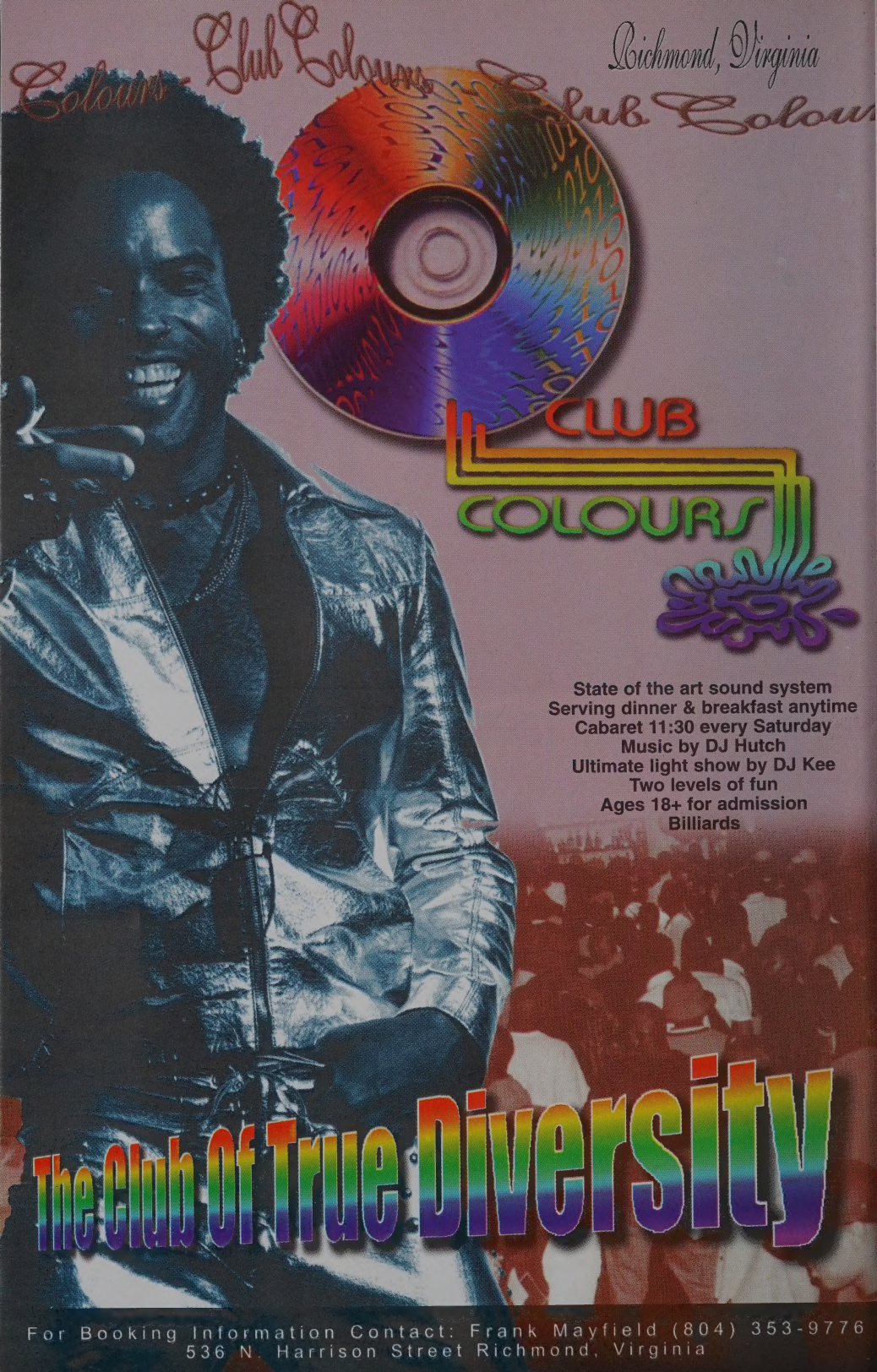
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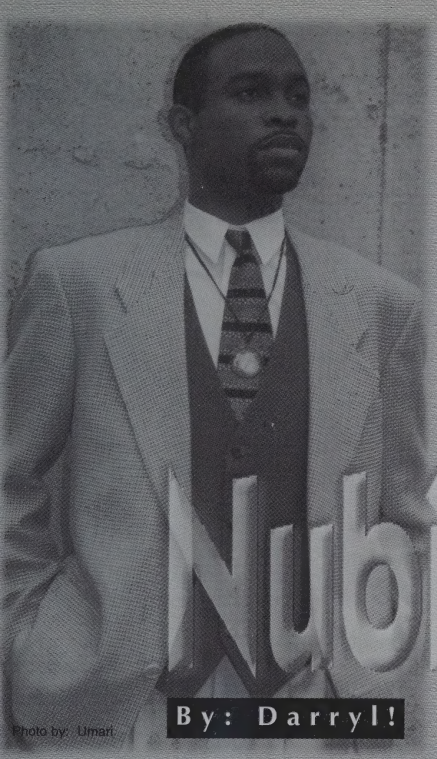


Photo by: Umari

Nubian Spirit

By: Darryl!

Crossing the Great Divide

As we move towards the close of the main Pride season (keeping in mind that there are still prides planned for the fall months) we are left wondering if we will choose to build community throughout the year or if all this "togetherness" was just for the "pictures" and "show" for newspapers, corporate sponsors, and government entities? What does it take to keep the community of African American Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, and Same Gender Loving persons harmonized and on one accord? How do we challenge ourselves to go beyond the simple constraints of gender, sexual orientation, age, complexion, educational level, trade or occupation, etc. etc., etc? Can we name the barrier(s) to maintaining our "family" in a healthy way? Why do we continue to perpetuate dysfunctional relationships with our partners, families, and friends? What is at the heart of our discontent?

Wish it were that I had all the answers, but I do not. Sisters and brothers, I think that Aretha Franklin said it best "R.E.S.P.E.C.T., ...find out what it means to me...," it seems that at the most basic level of our existence, in our quest for acceptance and equality, we have forgotten to respect each other and recognize that we are still a very diverse people. Somehow the idea of Africa being a single place seems to have melded with the idea that all people of African descent think, feel, vote, and expect the same things monolithically all the time. We have not embraced each other while fighting for the rights we feel that as a group have been denied us.

So... even if all this is true or accurate or logical what do we do now that that the Great Divide is present? Well it seems that we should consider the needs of our collective community while not forsaking individual needs. But at times personal sacrifice means doing what is better for the group while putting things in place that will benefit each person as well.

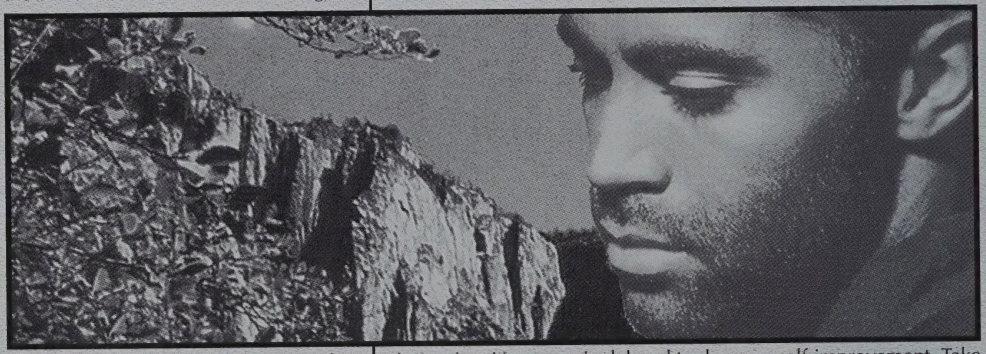
It is time for us to cross the Red Sea of confusion into the Light of Unity. Together we can..., united we will,... great are we and greatness is what we can produce. Divided we will continually be segmented, marginalized, and under-represented. Now is the time to choose to put aside petty differences and squabbles. Now is the time to cross that Great Divide that keeps us apart from each other. Sisters & brothers unite. The issues that keep us from being able to reason together, party together, or just BE together are smaller that we think but bigger in our imaginations. Take time to reach beyond your familiar comfort zone and connect or reconnect with all the members of our community. Seek to understand your sisters and brothers, rather than labeling and objectifying them. If we don't cross the "great divide" who will build the bridge to the land of freedom and prosperity we deserve and seek? The choice is ours. Harambee (let us come together). Amen/Ashe'.

Peace and Blessings.

How To Fight The Loneliness Blues

By Lee Jones

Last New Year's you resolved to find your soulmate. Your body tingled with excitement at the thought of sharing all those special moments in 1999 with your boo. Well, Valentine's Day came and you were single - but it was still early. Spring arrived but your new love didn't. Your anticipated summer of love left you out in the cold. You went to DC Pride, Houston Splash, At The Beach in LA or Chicago Pride, Hotter Than July in Detroit, New York Pride and ended the summer in Atlanta with nothing to show for it but some erotic memories and ballooned long distance bills. Now, summer is virtually over and Fall is around the corner and you are holding out hope for a Fall fling. But what if you don't find a mate in 1999? You promised yourself that you won't be lonely in '99, but as the year draws to a close you can feel that blue sensation starting to saturate your conscious. Your Y2K meltdown is around the corner.



How can you beat the single blues? Well, I have a few suggestions. But let me first say that one does not have to be single to feeling lonely. There are many people in committed relationships who are lonely. Likewise, there are a number of people who are single but aren't lonely. Therefore, loneliness is a state of mind - or a response to situation - rather than a circumstance. At some point, even for a brief moment, all of us feel lonely. I wrote the bulk of this piece when I was beginning to feel lonely. I was out of town sitting in a car waiting on a friend when I felt the loneliness blues creeping in. I quickly took out a pen and some paper to fight back. Here are some of the things that as a single brother I have used or heard suggested to combat loneliness.

* Friends - You probably have some single friends. Use them! Enjoy activities like going to the movies, to plays, shopping, dining out, going to sporting events, museums, to cultural activities or any social event that you enjoy. Or you can always get together and talk. Friends always find a way to make even the simplest activities seem special.
* Remain Active - While you are waiting for Mr. or Ms. Right, time moves on with or without you. Make the most of your time by staying active. Use your singlehood to do some self-improvement. Take a class at a local college or trade school, finish that degree that you have been wanting to complete, read more, learn a new skill, do some physical and spiritual self-improvement. Use your time wisely instead of sitting on your hands waiting to be rescued by your next man or woman. You have been meaning to do some things that you seem to never have time for. Now is the time. What's your excuse?
* Help Others - One never really understands how blessed they are till they discover what other people are going through. It certainly puts your bout of loneliness in its proper perspective. One might think that the world is coming to an end when they are lonely - that is till they see other people's world figuratively coming to an end. This does not mean that we should use the misfortune of others to make us feel better. But one never really begins to look at the bright side of their situation till they see what others are struggling with. Get involved and help somebody. By helping others you help yourself, too.
* Travel - Sometimes we get so caught up in our daily rut that we forget that there is a big world out there. Take quick weekend getaways to cities that you enjoy visiting. Or go to a place that you have never been. Go and enjoy the sites and sights - if you know what I mean. Visit the hot spots where our community frequents. Meet new people wherever you visit. At worst, you will have met some new acquaintances. At best, perhaps your soul mate lives five

hundred miles away instead of five blocks away. Traveling expands your horizon and can be just the ticket to drive away your blues. Also, think about taking one of your single friends with you so that you can double your pleasure.

* Recognize the Advantages of Being Single - There are some advantages and disadvantages to living the single life. If you are constantly feeling lonely it is probably because you are only focusing on the disadvantages. Nearly all of my friends who are in committed relationships tell me that I need to cherish my "freedom". There are some things that we have the luxury of doing as singles that we would not be able to do if we were in a relationship. While we often envy those who are in a relationship, they frequently envy us as singles. And you will really treasure your singlehood when you hear of some of the conflicts that surface between couples.

* Take Inventory of What You Want - How many times have heard gay and straight people say, "I am just looking for a good man (or woman)." But when you press them to describe their idea of a good man or woman they tend to hesitate or not have an answer at all. It is important that we know what we want before we get involved with someone. One of the worst things that can happen is finding yourself in a relationship with someone that is really not compatible with you. Why waste your time being in a relationship with someone just to say that you have a man or woman in your life when they do not meet your standards? Remember that the key to life is not getting everything that you want, but wanting everything that you get. It is important to have a relationship with someone that meets your criteria. Otherwise, your time will be wasted and you'll have another emotional wound to nurse.

One of the questions that we need to ask while we are taking inventory is are we really searching for a mate or are we looking for a convenience partner? What I mean by a convenience partner is someone who we only want to be with when we go out or have sex, otherwise we have no time or place for him or her in our life. That is not the same as being in a committed relationship. Take this time to figure if you really want to be involved with someone or just conveniently occupied at your leisure.

* Take Some Time to do Self-Inventory - Take time to develop yourself as person. Sometimes we don't get our blessings immediately because we are not ready for them. While we are letting time slip through our hands waiting on someone, God may be waiting on us to get our 'house in order' so that we can be ready for that person who will be coming our way. We might have too much emotional baggage, too many issues, or are just not mature enough to handle a relationship. Use this time to address your weakness and anchor your strengths.

Also during this period examine your patterns of behavior. Check to make sure that you are maintaining your integrity by not acting out of desperation. What I mean by this is checking to see if you are trying to find companionship by doing things that are unsafe or out of your character. Nothing can cause us to lose our dignity and self-respect faster than acting out of desperation.

While you are doing your self-inventory, recognize that only you can make you a complete person. You don't need someone in your life to make you complete. God made you complete - no one can give that to you. The sooner that you recognize that you are only one that can complete you, the wiser your choices will be. You will think twice about whom you choose to be intimate with. Perhaps for the first time in your life, you'll find yourself saying no to some offers that you used to readily accept. You can't wait for someone to come along and make you complete; you have to recognize and act like you are complete before you meet that special someone. Otherwise, when that person leaves are you back to being incomplete again. Are you going to let someone have that much control over you? June Jordan reflects in one of her most salient poems, "you are the one that you have been waiting for all your life". When you value who you are you will begin to view yourself as a treasure; a gift for that special person that will come into your life.

* Find Solace in the Word - There are many examples of persons in the Bible who felt lonely, forsaken, or alone. But yet they found strength in their faith and were able to move onward and upward. Sometimes when we think that life is kicking us we automatically assume that we are being kicked backwards when in reality we may be getting kicked forward. The Word tells us that all things work together for the good of those who love God. This includes broken relationships and bad experiences. The Word tells us that we must learn we must be content in whatever state that we find ourselves in.

There is the example of the servant Elijah who was hiding in a cave because he felt deserted and alone, among other reasons. But God had to tell him twice to come out of the cave. How many times will God have to tell you to come out of your cave?

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with feeling lonely. Human beings are social creatures by their very nature, but when we are denied that part of our existence then we feel lonely. However, there is something wrong when the loneliness grips us so tightly that we are virtually paralyzed by putting our lives on hold. With all the other difficulties that face in life it would be a crime to compound them with the loneliness blues. There are three types of problems: those that we have no control over; those that we do have control over and don't act on it; and those that we can control and we do something about. You can do something about feeling lonely. But having someone in your life is not the sole answer to your loneliness. Remember that even individuals who have a mate can feel lonely.

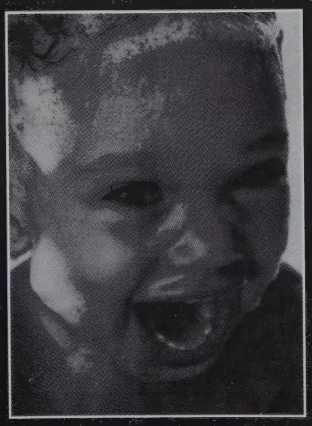
It is okay if you get lonely. Just be sure that loneliness doesn't get you. Feeling lonely can set you up for some harmful escapes like alcoholism, drug abuse, sex abuse, and overindulgence to the point that it threatens your health. At some point, we all get a dose of the loneliness blues. But like the great masters of blues idiom like Ralph Ellison, Duke Ellington, Romare Bearden and others, we can always handle them with style. Loneliness only wins when we don't fight back. The minute we decide that we don't want to be lonely, the blues has got to go. Go forth and conquer your loneliness.

Continued FROM page 19

they cannot be separate entities.
I began to meditate more on the topic and as I did so realized that based on my own experiences and upbringing I am black first.
In my everyday life, I am more supportive of black organizations, yet belong to no gay organizations. When there is an issue at hand concerning blacks, I get involved and become outspoken, ectatic or outraged; however gay issues I am not nearly as passionate.
I'm always proud of being black and will go to war with anyone who is negative about my race; but that energy and prowlness are not as pronounced with gay pride.
Another reason I believe I am black first is because I was educated about my racial background from an early age but nothing about my sexual identity and how to come to terms with it until I became an adult. Society as a whole does not teach us or encourage us to be gay first; it is a quality enhanced as a person becomes more mature or has a better understanding of what being gay means.
The positive aspect of submitting my comments is that it helped me realize that the way I live my life says I am black first, but my heart says I am both equally. Now I must make adjustments that reflect what my heart says and hopefully more of us will feel we can be both equally.
Ivan Myers- Atlanta, GA

Without a doubt, I will always be black and let us not forget that black is beautiful. My epithelial shade of brown necessitates that as a black gay man I do not lose focus on the fact that America is still a racist society. Therefore, I must be very cautious of looking for an image of myself in white gay males and in their community. I should only socialize and have ties with them when it is beneficial to building economic, social, and political power and facilities for my black gay brothers and sisters; this in my opinion, is the only time black and white men should be working together. My gayness is a beautiful gift and very important essence of my total existence. I currently define myself as a black gay male who has strong sense of pride, integrity, and consciousness of working to improve the well-being of black people and other people of color as well as directing this same sense of consciousness towards eradicating racism, black homophobia, heterosexism, and other prejudices within this dysfunctional United States of America. There are in my opinion, three challenges facing all of us who currently define ourselves as black gay men: First, we must develop an analysis of homosexuality in the black community that is affirming and constructive. Second, we must correct the bias and mis-information that has been put forth by black homophobics such as: Reggie White, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Angie and Debbie Winans, Creflo Dollar, Rev. Bishop T.D. James and a white host of others. Third, we must not allow the hurt and anger that we may feel toward these homophobic brothers and sisters, cause us to dismiss them or their ideas on other issues that we may agree on; but stay over distance from them.
In closing, Am I Black or Am I Gay? I am both, I will not choose one over the other. I must work steadily towards keeping a balance between the two.
Jerry T. Barnes- Tuscaloosa, AL

Well I truly believe that I was born gay. I know that GOD put me on this earth for the enjoyment of life. I first started out with different sexual feelings when I was about 10 years-old. I can remember walking to my local stationary store in New York where I grew up to buy the muscle man physique magazines to look at how gorgeous the men's bodies in the magazines were. I fantasized about being with one of those stacked guys who I could lose my virginity to someday. I was sheltered from the exciting glamour and glitz of New York City.
My parents told me that Manhattan had a whole area of people who were different so then at the age of 14 my family moved down south. Well as a grown up at the age of 26 my parents meant those GAY people who lived in the city or the Greenwich Village area. After my 18th birthday, I went back to Brooklyn, NY to visit my sisters and we caught the L train all the way into the village. I couldn't believe my eyes, wow! So many gays, lesbians, and transgender people walking, talking, eating, and clubbing. I would like to have been a part of the gay lifestyle during my young years which would have helped me with my coming out issues, depression, and my first sexual experience.
My first sexual experience was at the tender age of 18. I learned as the years went by without any support from family members or a gay group because we lived in a back woods country town with only 900 people. I realized that being gay is hard. Gays are viewed as sodomites, evildoers, and freaks to society. Gays and lesbians are often plagued with discrimination in employment, housing, healthcare, and activities of daily living. I have been laughed at because people say that I'm too feminine so it's always harder to get and maintain the respect of others. At the age of 26, I've decided that regardless of who doesn't like me that I must live my life to the fullest despite the homophobic society in which we live because I fear for my life everyday when I leave home not knowing wether or not I will make it back home safely after hearing all the violence on gays, lesbians, and transgender people lately in America. So I just take living as a gay man one step at a time and enjoy every step of the way.
Jack Miller- Baltimore, MD



October's Topic Of The Month

How Do You Feel About A Lesbian or Gay Couple Having/Raising A Child?

Society says that this can only bring harm to a child, what do you think?

Ways Of Submitting Entries

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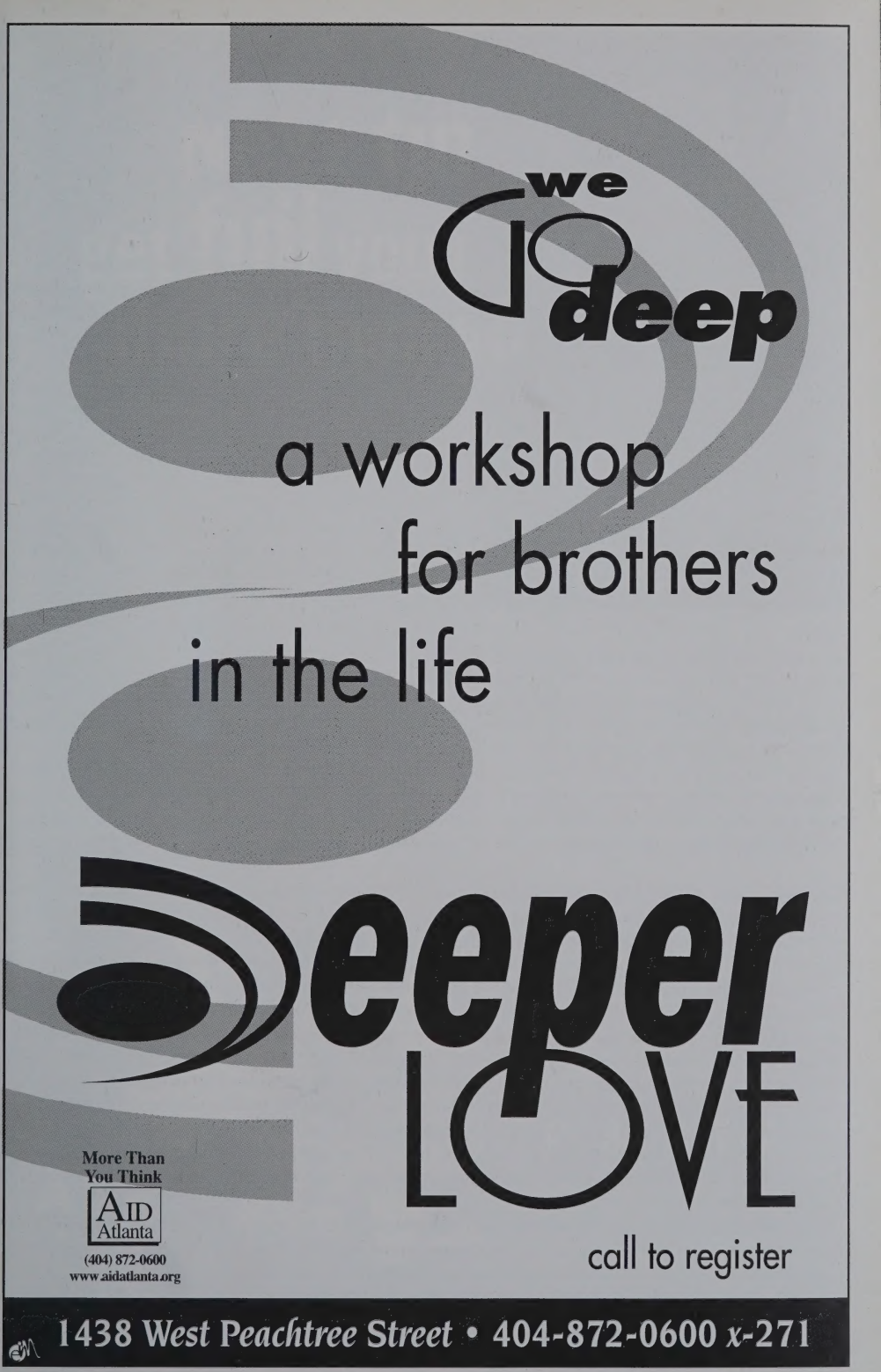
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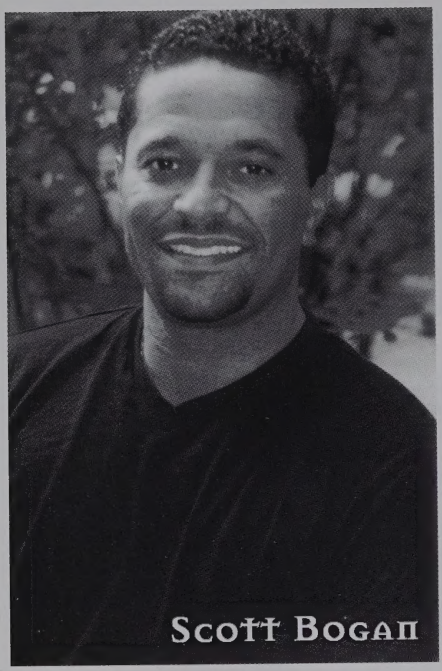
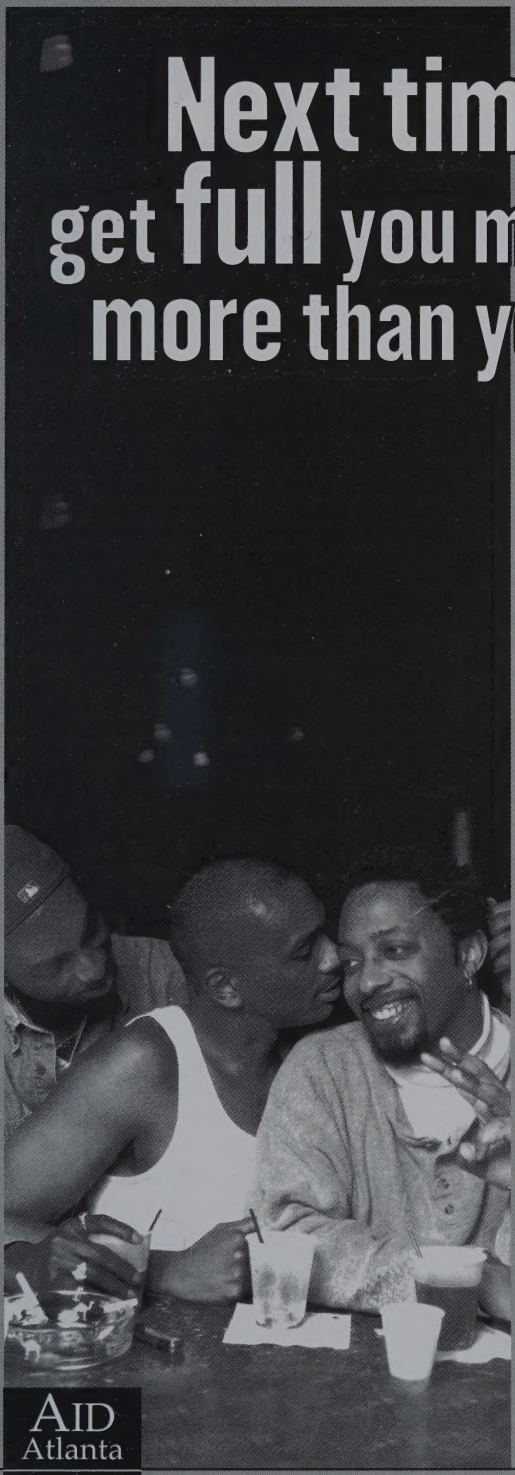


Worthy of Greatness

This week I had such a strange revelation. There is a guy at my gym that I like and I think that he likes me (no, I am not in the fourth grade anymore). The only way that I can tell is that he stares a lot. We do speak to one another, but it is only a casual hello. I was talking to my personal trainer about this situation (I often bounce things off him). I explained to him how the night before I was laying in bed and all of a sudden this person was on my mind. Not as a sexual thought, but in a connected sense. It was as if I felt completely connected to this person. I immediately jumped out of bed and started praying and asking God why this person was so heavy on my heart. The next day at the gym I asked my trainer (Jeff) if he had ever felt connected to someone that he had never even met and had no clue why he was feeling this connection. He explained to me that he feels that kind of connection all of the time and he believes that we are drawn to these people for a reason. He broke it down a little further and explained that he felt that kind of connection with me when we first met. When Jeff and I first met 2 years ago, I was just at a turning point with my depression. I was seeing a counselor and I started working out again. He said that when he first saw me he knew that I was unhappy and he just wanted to come over and hug me and let me know that everything would be ok. And believe it or not he did exactly that. I told Jeff that I could never go over to a stranger and introduce myself to them. I went on to say that I am very much an introvert and when it comes to situations like that I have not a clue what to say. What Jeff said to me next, knocked me over like a ton of bricks. He said that I don't feel like I am worthy. This statement really slapped me in my face. I thought about it the rest of the night.

While I've have always known that I had self-esteem problems I could never seem to get to the core of the issue. I started thinking about why I am HIV positive, why I don't go out to clubs, why I don't hang out with my friends that often, why I don't allow myself to date, why I don't allow people to get too close to me- this list could go on forever. All of these things say that I don't think that I am worthy. I am HIV positive because I did not value my own life enough to tell my partner to put on a condom. I don't go out to clubs not because I don't enjoy myself, but because I don't think that I add any value to the environment. I don't hang out with my friends that often because I think that I don't make enough money or drive a nice car (most of my friend's make 90K or more). I don't date that often because I often think why would someone want to love me. I know that this feeling of unworthiness stems from my childhood. I can remember my parents arguing and my dad saying to my mother that he could have played professional football if she had not gotten pregnant (with me) and he had to marry her. So, if my own parents did not want me why should I value my life? I cannot dwell in the past. I am here and have been here for 31 years now. So the question for me is now that I know, this how do I turn this around?

To be honest I really don't know how to turn this around. I have been praying for acceptance. I have been asking God to give me the strength to accept myself for who I am and where I am in my life right now as a child of God. I was telling Jeff the other day that I don't know how to get through this. He said that one way to get through this is to know that Jesus died on the cross for us and our sins. That in itself makes me worthy of greatness! It was almost like he gave me another hug and told me that everything was going to be ok.



Next time you get full you may lose more than your head.

You know condoms can lower your risk for HIV, right? Trick is, you've got to be able to use it. If you're too full to think straight you could make dangerous choices. To get more info or help, call AID Atlanta at 404.872.0600 and ask about the PARTY project.

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WEAPONS OF Destruction

by Lawrence Bryant, Atlanta

Much of the viewpoint concerning the toleration of homosexuality in society is saturated with stereotypes and misinformation about the character of gays: particularly discouraging are the brazen untrue association between issues such as homosexuality and pedophilia. On the other hand religious scholars all too often use the daggars of Sodom and Gomora to force repentance, denial, and psychological warfare against our community. When the walls of Jerico come tumbling down, they are no where to be found. Just because they believe this fallacy does not make it the gospel, whites used scripture for 300 years to keep us in slavery and we all know that was not the will of God.

It is a known fact that heterosexuals commit most of the horrific acts of sexual crimes against our children yet some of this nations most noted scholars continue to perpetrate these mean spirited allegations. They are adamant in their vilification of gays and only see us as immoral delinquents whose only purpose is to sodomize children and engage in promiscuous sexual escapades. On the other hand when opportunity arises for legislation to promote monogamy through same sex marriage and cooperation through domestic partnership, it is oftentimes vociferously repelled. This type of irresponsible rhetoric promotes societal hatred and soe seeds of bigotry, violence and contention toward gays. The misinterpretation of the Sodom and Gomora myth is the most appalling offense perpetrated by religious folk in an attempt to castrate our dignity as well as our spirituality. This misinterpretation can be found in the book of Genesis, chapter 19 verses 1 to 11:

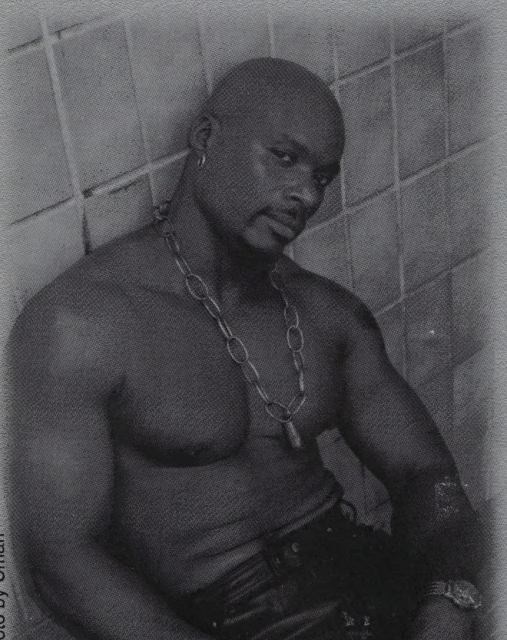

Photo by Umari

The sin of Sodom was the inhospitality, abuse, and offense to strangers when understood in its historical context. To use this text to condemn homosexuality is the real sin. The prophet Ezekiel (16:48-49 states this clearly: "This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, surfeit of food and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.") The sin of the Sodomites was that they refuse to take in needy travelers. Many in the Black church in the same vain have abused gays for being different and made us feel like strangers in our own culture all in the name christianity. This oppression and hatred is the very sin that haunts Sodom, yet it is the behavior that gays have been subjected to many times over.

The very people who bash us with Sodom and Gomora are themselves the real Sodomites.

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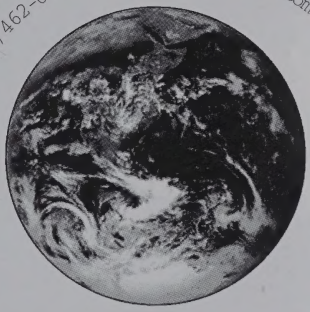

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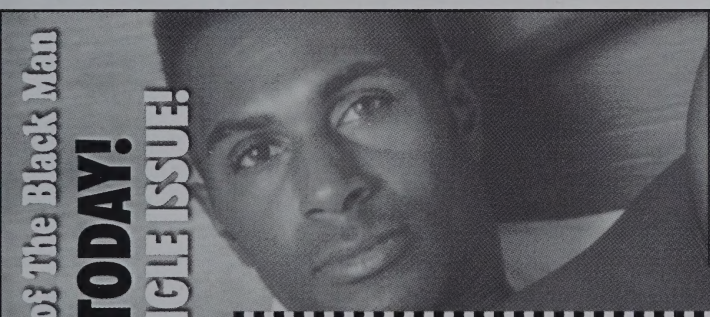

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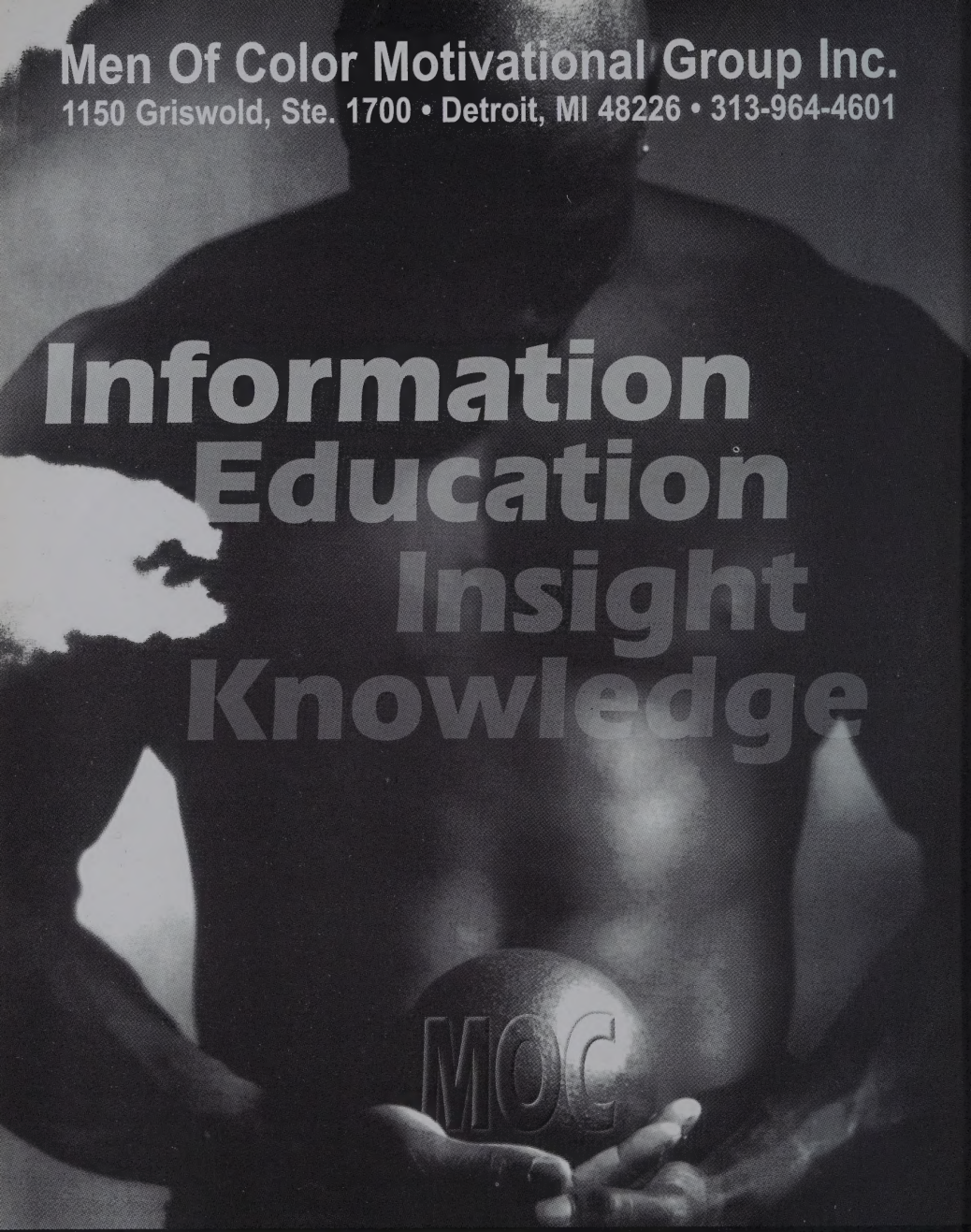


MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.

OCTAVIA
The Ultimate Face

by Danny Chislom

The name 'Octavia' is a statement in itself. The person known as Octavia is a living, breathing legend. There are few people in the ball scene that can be identified solely by their first name. There are even fewer people whose name inspire awe and respect and automatically invoke images of beauty and glamour. Octavia St. Laurent is the face by which all fem-queen faces are measured. She is THE face girl of the 80's and has continued to serve throughout the 90's. With the new millennium, Octavia, now 35, shows no signs of slowing down as she has retained all of her youth, vigor and beauty.

In the beginning, it was hard for Octavia. As a kid she was effeminate and was teased and harassed because of her small size and feminine ways, however, she knew she did not want to be a gay man. Then she met Robert (Marcomeni) St. Laurent who helped her get in touch with her identity and suggested she become a girl. Robbie, who for the most part can be considered Octavia's 'gay mother', named her 'Octavia' for the singer Octavia Lambertis who was Octavia's best friend in high school. Upon meeting other beautiful fem-queens, including Carmen Xtravaganza, she realized that she wanted to live her life as a woman. She began working as a showgirl and learned everything about hair, make-up and clothes on her own. Life was hard and at times depressing and for a time she turned to drugs. However, she has been clean for a year and wants everyone reading this to know they can do the same, because drugs are not the answer.

With Supermodel Cindy Crawford

With Sis & Bro

Octavia serving Face

When she began walking balls she didn't start winning immediately, although she did win 'BQ in Drags' her first time walking. Then she won 'Face' at Fran and Erskine Christian's Legends Ball in 1986 and everything turned around. As the 90's rolled around her interest in balls decreased, as they became more political. As Octavia puts it, "Balls back in the day were better quality. It was about being the best."

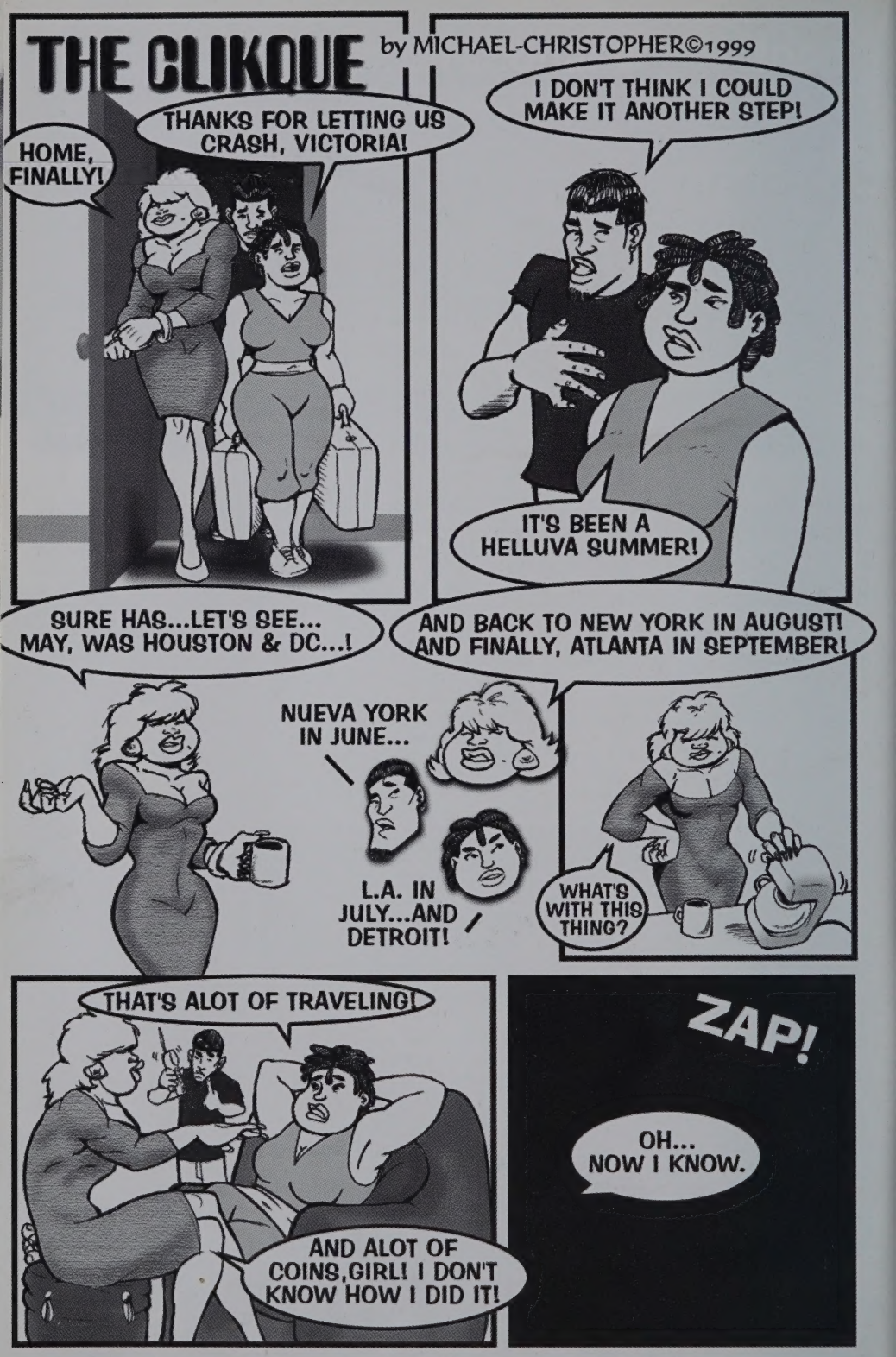
Octavia was already a star in the New York City ballroom scene, but the Jenny Livingston documentary "Paris is Burning" made Octavia known on a national level. The "Paris is Burning" experience was a bittersweet one at best. On the other hand, she feels it was very negative. There was a lot of lying and exaggerating by young stupid kids who wanted to be seen and heard. However, it did make her feel important and how people finally listened to what she had to say. A major positive point that stemmed from exposure in "Paris is Burning" was that the doors to the entertainment world began to open, doors leading to Octavia's first and only real love; singing. She got to perform a showcase at Sweetwaters, a legendary nightclub in Manhattan as well as opening for entertainment veteran, Tony Bennett. She has also appeared on the 'Donahue' show and had a role in the Danny Glover-Matt Dillon movie "The Saint of Ft. Washington".

Octavia's desire is to be a pioneer; to knock down walls in the way Dorothy Dandridge did before her. She wants to take what Sylvester, Divine and RuPaul have done to the next level. The road is long and hard and knows it. And also what people expect from her when they meet her. "They see me as this beauty with no talent and no problems, just interested in being beautiful" she says.

But talent is something she has in abundance (I've heard her sing!) because it runs in her family. Her cousin's grandfather was Babe Wallace (of "Stormy Weather" fame), her uncle was Louis Armstrong and her mother was a member of 60's girl groups the Crystals, the Chantelles and the Sweethearts and sang back up for Jackie Wilson. Octavia's mom has been a great source of support, without her she would not have made it this far.

Of course, no singer is without their influences. Octavia enjoys the lovely and powerful voices of Mariah Carey, Rachelle Ferrell and Regina Belle, but her all time favorite entertainer is Barbara Striesand because of her voice, her drive for excellence and her magic, grace and charm.

Octavia, herself, possesses all of these qualities and one more; faith. "If you believe in God, yourself and the impossible, all your dreams will come true." Also, she has learned that everything in life is like a boomerang; whatever you give, you get back. With her faith, determination and enormous talent, she is bound to knock down those barriers and be the star she deserves to be.


THE CLIKQUE
by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER©1999
HOME, FINALLY!
THANKS FOR LETTING US CRASH, VICTORIA!
I DON'T THINK I COULD MAKE IT ANOTHER STEP!
IT'S BEEN A HELLUVA SUMMER!
SURE HAS...LET'S SEE... MAY, WAS HOUSTON & DC...!
AND BACK TO NEW YORK IN AUGUST! AND FINALLY, ATLANTA IN SEPTEMBER!
NUEVA YORK IN JUNE...
L.A. IN JULY...AND DETROIT!
WHAT'S WITH THIS THING?
THAT'S ALOT OF TRAVELING!
AND ALOT OF COINS,GIRL! I DON'T KNOW HOW I DID IT!
ZAP!
OH... NOW I KNOW.

just for laughs

By Various Individuals

The Florist

One day a Florist goes to a Barber for a haircut. After the cut, he goes to pay the Barber and the Barber replies: 'I am Sorry, I cannot accept money from you; I am doing a Community Service'. The Florist is happy and leaves the shop. The next morning when the Barber goes to open his shop, there is a Thank you card and a dozen roses waiting at his door.

A Cop goes for a haircut and he also goes to pay the Barber and the barber replies: 'I am Sorry, I cannot accept money from you; I am doing a Community Service'. The Cop is happy and leaves the shop. The next morning when the Barber goes to open his shop, there is a Thank you Card and a dozen Donuts waiting at his door.

A brother goes for a haircut and he also goes to pay the Barber and the barber replies: 'I am Sorry, I cannot accept money from you; I am doing a Community Service'. The guy is, of course, very happy and leaves the shop.

The next morning when the Barber goes to open his shop, guess what he finds there..... A dozen brothers waiting for a free haircut...

The Firm

One morning while making breakfast, a man walked up to his wife and pinched her on her butt and said, "You know if you firmed this up we could get rid of your girdle." While this was on the edge of intolerable, she thought herself better and replied with silence.

The next morning the man woke his wife with a pinch on the breast and said, "You know if you firmed these up we could get rid of your bra."

This was beyond a silence response, so she rolled over and grabbed him by his package. With a death grip in place she said, "You know if you firmed this up we could get rid of the postman, the gardener, the butler, the pool man, and your brother."

The Friendly Skies

There was a plane flying over the Atlantic. The pilot got on the intercom and said that the plane was experiencing difficulties and that the weight would have to be lessened on the plane.

So he said that everyone had to throw their luggage off the plane. Everyone did.

He got back on the intercom, "The plane is still too heavy, so people are going to have to jump off, but we're going to do this alphabetically.

"All African-Americans please jump off the plane." No one stood up.

He got back on and said, "All blacks, please jump off the plane." Still no one stood up.

"All coloreds,please jump off the plane." Again, no one stood up.

Then the smart, well-mannered little black boy turned to his prim and proper, well-educated, affluent mother and said, "Mother, aren't we all those things?" And the mother answered, "No baby, we niggas today."

The Parrot

A guy is having marital problems. He and the wife are not communicating anymore and he's lonesome, so he goes to a pet store thinking a pet might help.

The store he walks into happens to specializes in parrots. As he wanders down the rows of parrots he notices one with no feet. Surprised, he mutters "I wonder how he hangs onto the perch?"

The parrot says, "With my penis, dummy."

The guy is startled and says, "You certainly talk well for a parrot."

The parrot says, "Yes, thank you... I'm a very well educated parrot. I can discuss politics, sports, religion, almost any subject you wish."

The guy says, "Gee, you sound like just what I was looking for." The parrot replies, "There's not much of a market for maimed parrots, you know. If you offer the proprietor $2 for me, I'll bet he'll sell me."

The guy buys the parrot and for three months things go great. Every day when he comes home from work the parrot tells him Clinton said this, the A's won, the Giant's lost, the Pope did this and so on.

But then one day the guy comes home from work and the parrot waves a wing at him and says, "Come in and shut the door."
The guy says, "What's up?"

The parrot says, "I don't know how to tell you this, but the mailman came today. Your wife answered the door in her negligee and he kissed her right on the lips."

The guy says, "Oh, just a momentary flight of passion."

The parrot says, "Then he fondled her breasts." The guy says, "He did?"

"Yep," says the parrot. "Then he took off her negligee and started sucking on her breasts." The guy exclaims, "My God, what happened next???"

The parrot says, "I don't know. I got a hard-on and fell off my perch!"

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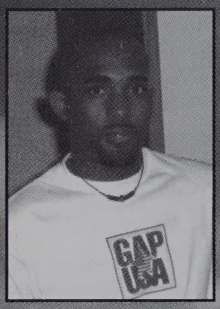
Door "655"

by Queshan Hayes

Part III



Before I start Part III, I just wanted to thank my loyal fans and new fans. I just wanted to let you all know that the story is completely fictitious. The characters are false and the situations are those that I have created. Of course, it has all happened in some of our lives, but I am truly writing from my creative soul. So stop asking me if I'm Craig, because I'm not! Sometimes I wish I was, but I'm not. So continue to support the magazine, enjoy the story, and send me some fan mail!!

Last month, you witnessed the scene of two men in a grinding session. One of them knowing exactly what he was doing and the other just plain confused. The door was opened to William's past. You, but not Craig, got a glimpse of where his confusion began: Uncle Wes. After finally realizing that he was rubbing dicks with another man and calling out his uncle's name, William snaps out of his trance and sends Craig on his horny little way. Now in bed and drifting off to sleep, Craig wonders why William called the name "Uncle Wes." He still however services himself and falls asleep. But before he has completely fallen to darkness, his phone rings. It's William.

Craig froze as he sat up in bed. Speechless, he couldn't utter a word. The silence was so thick that the operator wanted to jump in.
"Hey, you there, man?"
"Umuhyeah, I'm here," Craig said, finally able to speak. After the events of less than two hours ago, he couldn't believe William had actually picked up the phone and dialed his number. The alcohol slowly lost its affect on both men. And they were both thinking clearly, now. Craig in his bed wearing only boxer briefs with a semi-erect penis. William standing in his kitchen with loose fitting basketball shorts, pacing back and forth. His heart beat shook his whole body and he just knew that Craig could hear it over the phone. It took all of his inner strength to sound calm and cool as if nothing was wrong.

"I was just calling to make sure you got in O.k., man," he stammered. Hell, it was only a few feet away. What? Was he going to get shot by a drive by gunman while walking a flight of stairs from William's door to his own? Was a meteor going to come flying down and strike him unconscious? Did he get in O.K.? What in the hell? Yet, Craig decided to play along.

"Oh...yeah, I made it in okay. No deadly meteorites or drive by gunmen out to kill me tonight," he said as he rolled his eyes.

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

"Oh, you're the comedian tonight, huh?" William blurted out with a forced, nervous laugh. "That was really some strong shit, huh? I'm finally chilled out, now. I don't even remember you leaving. When did you dip?"
And with those words, Craig knew His own heart stopped. His eyes closed tightly. He almost gasped, but he had learned self-control from his father.

So that was the plan: We were drunk and we don't remember shit. Craig could not believe his ears.

"Hey William, its really late, and I've got to get some sleep. Talk to you tomorrow?" Craig said as he rubbed his temples.

"Sure, man. Later." And the conversation was over. Dial tone...

Although he had seen the whole scene before, it was much harder to swallow when you became an actor in it. Alright, you get drunk, but who would forget what just happened hours ago? Craig knew the answer immediately after he thought it.

"A confused closet case," he thought "Shit, its almost four o'clock. Fuck this shit! Fuck it!" he grumbled as he rolled over and pulled up his covers. And soon he was again out like a light. Although his mind was full of questions and his heart full of anger, he was still human. He was indeed exhausted. Maybe he would sleep like a baby, or maybe not.

****

William hung up the phone and paced back and forth in his kitchen. He stopped to look into his refrigerator. Nothing there.

"Why the fuck you always get me in trouble," he said as he looked down and grabbed his crotch.

"Shit!" he said as he slammed his fist on the kitchen

counter. What had he done? It was like he was in a dream, a bad dream. He had invited a neighbor over, they chilled, drank some alcohol, watched some T.V. and ended up rubbing dicks. He stopped pacing and decided it was time for bed, but he couldn't get Craig out of his head.

"What in the fuck am I supposed to do now? How am I supposed to sleep on some shit like this? Fuck you Uncle Wes! Fuck you!" he said as he slammed the door of his bedroom. He sat across his bed with his head cupped in the palms of his hands. Just then, he had a thought. The thought caused his dick to tighten ever so slightly. He stood up and walked over to his night stand. He scanned through his programmed phone list. After a lot of pressing buttons and thinking, he finally pressed the DIAL button. After a few tones, he got a ring.

"Hello?" a familiar voice said after only the second ring.

"Yeah, whassup? What you doin' up so late," William said in a sexy voice with a touch of thug flavor. After a second or two of silence, the voice responded,

"Because, I ...I knew you were going to call tonight. I felt it...I felt it deep between my legs," the voice said with a laugh so sexy that Janet Jackson would pay to include it in one of her sexy numbers. This made William's dick grow even harder. After tonights events, he was confused, angry, mad, and still horny, all of the ingredients for wild, passionate sex.

"So when you comin' over?" He asked.

—Dial tone..
William held the receiver to his ear and smiled for a second or two. He knew what this meant. It meant he was getting some tonight. If there was any added discussion after that single, most important question, he knew it meant she was either occupied or had an early day the following morning and he would have to service himself. But neither of these were the case tonight. She had hung up. She was on her way.

Cicely was her name and doing the nasty was her game. She was a caramel colored sister with shoulder length, permed hair. And she was indeed beautiful. Her make-up was always flawless hand her wardrobe was fierce. William had met her out at a local club one night and boned her that same night and the following afternoon. Craig had heard them...She was on her way to the ride of her life.

William's dick was rock hard. He stood up and it pressed even harder against his shorts, sending a wave of ecstasy that made his toes curl.

"Shit, I'm rock hard. You'll take care of this shit, won't you Cicely," he said to himself while grabbing his bulging crotch. He began to stroke it ever so slightly, just enough to excite himself even more. Standing there beside his bed, he reached into his shorts and wrapped his fingers around his massive dick and squeezed. He closed his eyes and tilted his head back. His back arched and he tensed up his muscular ass to get the complete sensation that his hand caused in his shorts. Standing there, he slowly slid down his shorts with his free hand. The newness of the cool air brushed across his ass,

Continues on Page 65

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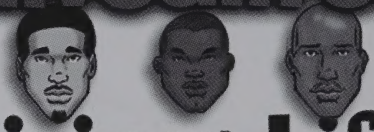
by Michael-Christopher
Creator of
THE CLIKQUE



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LivingtheLife

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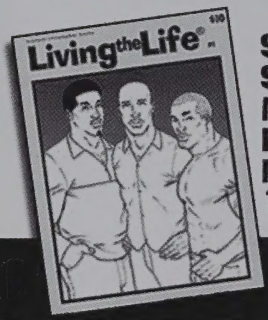

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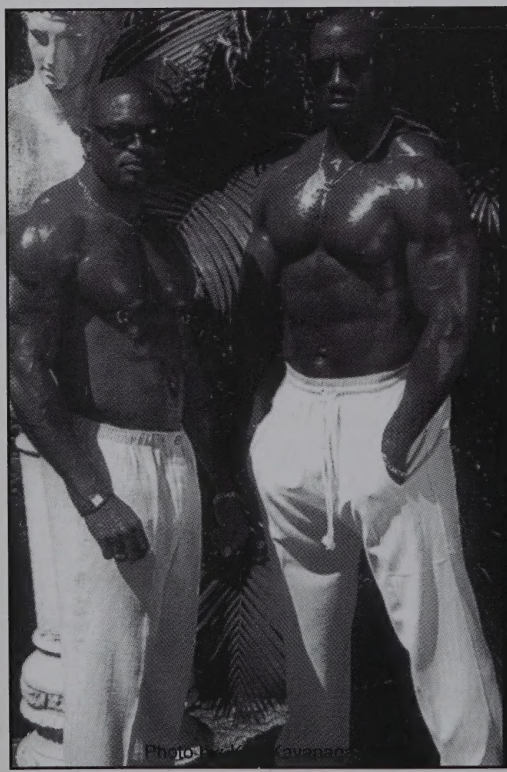

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By Queshan Hayes - Staff

Continued from page 63

muscular thighs, and hairy balls and heightened all sensations. It was as if he was in his own sexual paradise. He spread his feet further apart and began rolling his hips back and forth. His stomach muscles tightened with each wave of his hips. The heat that his hand created made each stroke seem orgasmic. Really getting into it, he cocked his head to one side and licked his sexy lips.

"Mmmm...shit.. yeahhh..." he moaned as he rolled his hips in an out. His knees began to buckle.

"Oh shit...oh shit.. ohhhhh..." he moaned as he shot a thick, creamy, stream of cum from where he stood to the wall across his bed. Stream after stream exploded until it became a drizzle down his hand.

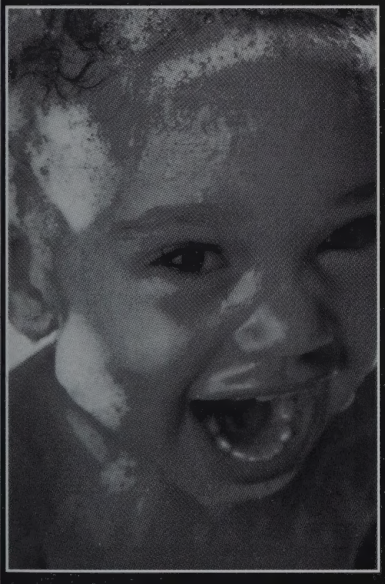
"Shit! That's what I'm talking about," he said as he looked at the mess he had made. He bent down to pick up his shorts. Now, totally naked, he walked to his bathroom to get a towel to wipe his hands and clean up. As he bent down to wipe his love juice from his carpet, he looked at his clock.

"Shit! She'll be here any minute," he mumbled as he threw the towel into his closet where his dirty clothes had piled up. He jumped into the shower and turned on the water. Soon he was foamy with soap, scrubbed with a loofa, and rinsed. He reached for his towel and wrapped it around his waist. Just as he was reaching for a Q-tip, he heard a knock at his door. Although he had just shot a major load, he was ready again. The thought of Cicely standing at his door in only a trench coat made his still sensitive dick swell again. He smiled as he caught a glimpse of himself in the mirror.

"Fuck that nigga upstairs. I'm gonna get some pussy tonight," he said as he turned off all of his lights in his bedroom. He reached over and lit two vanilla candles. He checked his night-stand. Yep, his condoms were there. Instead of trying to dry himself off, he thought that it would add to the effect if he was till wet when he answered the door. The water made his muscular chest appear even more massive and cut. He turned to answer the door when a thought entered his mind. He dropped the towel. Just then, he again heard knocking. This time it was a quicker, impatient knock.

"I'm coming, I'm coming," he mumbled. "You're gonna love this," he said to himself. He was so excited, he didn't check the peep hole. He leaned against the wall in a 'boy-next-door Tyson' pose, hard dick and all. He turned the knob and dramatically opened the door. There stood Craig in the doorway, almost breathless.

"Hey William...ummm...wassup?"



October's Topic Of The Month

How Do You Feel About A Lesbian or Gay Couple Having/Raising A Child?

Society says that this can only bring harm to a child, what do you think?

Ways Of Submitting Entries

(1) e-mail: clikquem@aol.com
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(3) Mail: 931 Monroe Drive. PMB 102-279, Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Deadline: Submissions are due by 9-20-99

I was in shock...I lay there stunned, waiting on the wrath of God to strike me down. I couldn't move. I could barely breath. He was already in the shower, singing some hip-hop song. Every muscle in my body screamed, NO! This could not have just happened. Please God, tell me this did not happen. My body had been satiated. I was fucked by MY nubian prince. Not that I'd never been fucked...quite the contrary. I've been fucked by some of the best. But this...I never knew anything like this. I'd watched this brotha grow up, being raised by my grandparents.

He'd come down for Freak-nik and was staying with my partner and I before going on to Daytona. We'd been up all night drinking and getting re-acquainted. Talking about the past 19 years.

The couple next door, whom my partner and I often got busy with, decided to come by for one of those moments. A married couple; both bisexual. My partner wasn't feeling it, so he left the party up to the two of us and decided to spend the night at his best friends.

It was to be me fucking the husband and my prince fucking the wife. It started with the two of us performing oral sex on them, bringing them to climax. High five for our oral skills.

We aren't finished. I make the husband get on all fours on the bed. MY prince does the same to the wife. They are facing each other. We enter them from behind.

DAMNATION

— By: Khalid Dawuud Idawu —

We start a slow methodical rhythm; grinning at each other wondering what sensations the other may be feeling. The couple kiss each other moaning in delight. I sense the husband stroking his dick as the wife rubs her clit. We fuck them.

Positions change. We now have them on their backs, legs high continuing our assault. We smile and wink at each other. Positions change again and hands start exploring other bodies, mouths explore, and there is more group action going on. Hands help dicks and hands help clit and mouths perform oral things while dicks slide in ass and in pussy, from all parties.

My ass is lubed and I'm laid on my back at the edge of the bed. Wet pussy straddles my face and I start to lap. My legs are raised as I watch her perform oral sex on MY prince. Her husband begins to glide his dick into me. He does so, slowly. The sensation is wonderful. First, only the head, poking me with quick short strokes opening the sphincter, making me relax. I feel the juices from her pussy flowing all over my face, head and neck, and I continue to eat her. I close my eyes as his dick enters me fully. Damn!

He **holds my ankles and fucks me; deep** and long. **I feel a hand on my dick, stroking me** with each thrust. **Loud moans from above tell** me that MY prince **is cumming in her mouth.** Keeping my eyes **closed I let the fucking take** me over.

She gets off my face and lays next to me and massages my chest and nipples as I grab the ass of her husband while he pounds this ass. Damn boy. Fuck me man. I turn my head and open my eyes to kiss her. She reciprocates. Her husband raises up from behind her and starts to lick her ear. WHAT? Her husband!...Who is fucking me? OH God NO! No! YEssss! Damn! Oh God this dick is good!

Every fiber of my being is being rejuvenated. I cannot believe the absolute pleasure I am feeling. Oh shit, I want to cumm. Goddamn me! I will burn in hell...oh but shit, fuck me. Yes, that's it. Fuck this ass.aaaaaaargghhhhhh shit.. baby, that dick is good.
(Jesus save me)

I grab his ass as he lays on me and thrust with all his might.
He sucks on my neck adding to the sensation. We are sweating like beasts. I'm pulling him in deeper, securing my home in hell. He thrusts, saying to me "Dear god, I love you!" Fucking me senseless. I rub his perfectly formed back. Feeling the solidness of his body, no longer a boys body. The body of a man. Filling me and bringing me to climax with his MANHOOD!

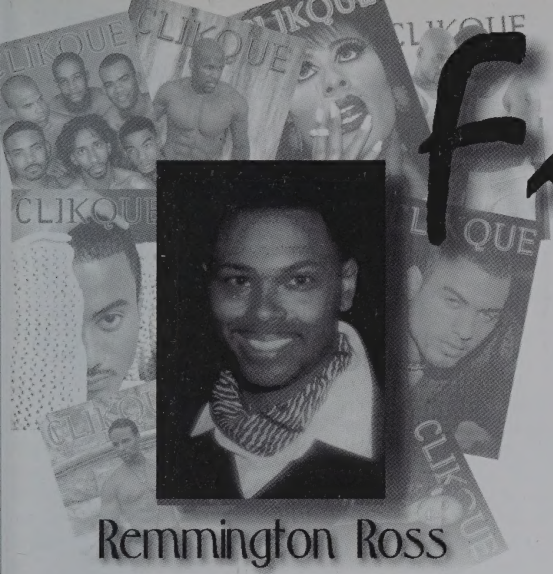
Gotdammit, you're making me cum. 'cum on baby, get that nut! I'm gonna bust one in you baby. yeah, I'm gonna cum in you baby. Ah shit, baby, here I cum. Hearing him scream aaahhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I can't hold back. As his dick explodes in me, I shoot with him, splashing our chests, face and mouth. He collapses on me. We lay there breathing as if we'd just run the Boston marathon. The only sound is our breathing. We notice that the married couple had already departed. We were alone.

The clock on the wall...oh my god. This cannot be: it has been nearly 2 hours. No way!

The bed is soaked thru. The stench of sex fills the air. His dick plops out after more than 5 minutes. He kisses me and jumps into the shower.

I lay there, dazed and confused. Completely satisfied, like never before, but so overwhelmingly disgusted. Completely free, yet bound by damnation. DAMNED!...Completely...Damned! my brother planted the seed...that was just planted in me. Yes, I was fucked... by, my nineteen year old nephew.



Fierce
The Column

Remmington Ross
The Prince Of Pageantry

Greetings to all who are avid patrons, participants, sponsors and competitors in the underworld of gay pageantry. This is our first feature of **Fierce - The Column** in Clikque Magazine. We plan on highlighting the competitions across the country via invitations or e-mail and spotlighting participants with brief interviews. We'll explore stud, fish, newcomer, plus sized, Mr. and Miss (for female impersonators) who entertain in available exhibitions for their career or sponsorship.

First lets congratulate the winners of the first two preliminaries for the **Miss Clikque America Pageantry System: Paula Sinclair**, Miss Clikque Atlanta and 1st Alternate **Stasha Sanchez,** who will represent The City of Atlanta. Miss Clikque Houston, **Tiffany Brooks** and 1st Alternate **Tijuana Brooks** will represent The City of Houston. They along with future finers will meet in Atlanta on MLK Weekend for the first annual Miss Clikque America finals. Other preliminaries are in the very near future so get your package together. See Pages 78 and 79 fo more information. Anyone interested in participating or obtaining a preliminary, may contact him at the Clikque office.

With all vanity, lets also commend one of the most complete and non-biased pageantry system. The **Essence Pageantry System** is striving to achieve more national recognition. They successfully held six open pageants in 1999. The system makes available to all contestants all score sheets after each competition. This enables the entertainer to build their weak points and enhance their strengths.

The Essence Pageantry System president was very helpful in sharing the results of their reigning court and newly crowned. **Tre'von Ross** - Mr. Essence, **Julia Sterling** of Miami, Fl - Miss Essence Newcomer, Tijuana Brooks - Miss Essence, Raven St. James - Miss Essence Plus, **Li Lee** - Mr. Stud Essence, **Kisa Jackson** of Dallas, Tx. - Miss Lady Essence.

Congratulations goes out to **Master Chris Higgens** for his successful Liberty System contest held in July. Ashia was crowned along with Mr. Calvin St. Clare in Atlanta.

The **Black Universe System** is gearing up for their annual Mr. & Miss Black Universe contest during Halloween in Atlanta. We, the Fierce Column, will hate to see native Texan and Floridian **Raquel Lord** and **Monte St. James** depart, but the crown must live on. **Flawless Oz** of Oz Productions will present the last official preliminary in Texas, Mr. & Miss Black Houston Universe on October 17, 1999.

Gerald Stevens and the board of the **Black America System** will hold all three of their National Pageants in November **Yosmein Campbell Starr, Amanda Korday,** and **Majesty** will host the Mr., Miss & Miss Plus Black America.

On August 22, 1999 **Chevelle Brooks** name was entered into the Miss Texas USofA Hall of Fame. Being crowned Miss Texas USofA (not for small girls any longer) showed that this entertainer's consistency and determination really paid off. The contest was tough, but the best won. We would like to give special mention to the talents of **Katherine York** and **Jade DeSainte,** they did not miss a beat! National Pageant divas **Erica Andrews**, Miss USofA and **Tommie Ross** Miss Texas Continental were on hand as well.

Hats off goes out to **Miss Jasmine Bonet**. She recently won the title Miss Hotlanta '99. The competition was **Fierce** with Miss Clikque Atlanta's own, Paula Sinclair right on her heels. Jasmine is without a doubt, one of the most well rounded entertainers in the country.

Fierce would like to extend love and luck to the Ross namesake on her journey to **Miss Continental USA** in Chicago for Labor Day Weekend. Good luck also goes out to **Silk O'Hara Monroe** of Dallas, TX, **Sasha Valentino** of Chicago, IL and **Alexis Gabrielle Sherrington** of Jacksonville, Fl who will make their presence known in the windy city.

Bruce Chivers, Co-owner and pageant administrator for the Essence Pageantry System, is looking forward to the new millennium which will increase the financial rewards for upcoming winners.

Anyone who knows of any national pageants for lesbians please e-mail me or call me at 713-642-8630.

Well until next issue, same page, same overture, but different scores. BTW, don't forget about my Thirtieth Birthday Party to be held in Houston, September 18th, 1999 at Incognito the Club.

Peace and love, RR

Please Send All Inquiries, Suggestions, and Announcements to clikquem@aol.com. If your system was omitted, please inform us and we will correct the oversight.

TransForum

Monthly Column For Our Transgendered Community

Greetings everyone! Welcome to another episode. I am so pleased that many of you have been enjoying the column. I have been getting a lot of good reviews from the people in the community from both sides of the fence. It has become increasingly more important to me that the African-American Trans community's voice be made a permanent fixture in print media. We as a community need to be more vocal and visual in our pursuits for greater exposure within our own community.

Since this columns' debut, several people have been asking about my personal story; and how I got started doing the things I do within the community. Well believe me, it has not been an easy road, but I managed to travel it anyway, and lived to tell the story.

For those of you who don't know, I was actually born in Wurzberg, Germany in June of 1973 (to tell my age). My father was in the Army and my mother was a professional make-up artist (catch the hint). I have two siblings, an older sister, and a younger brother, which a lot of you know by the name of Damien Kelly. Yes Damien is my real brother. (People are going to ask that question anyway.) Well throughout my family's travels around the world I began to blossom... well mentally anyway. More and more I knew that I was not going to grow up to be "trade". Or anything closely resembling trade. My family and I eventually settled in Charleston, South Carolina where I graduated from high school and went off to college. Lucky for me I grew up in a family that is very accepting of diverse lifestyles. I had older cousins, uncles and family friends who came before me who were out of the closet. That fact made growing up a whole lot easier for me. I really never hid my obvious differences. I played with Barbie dolls (that were purchased for me) and even played dress up in my mothers clothes; many times with her permission. Looking back now I could only have been two things, a transsexual or Naomi Campbell. While in college I began experimenting with wearing women's clothing in public. Sure people pointed and stared, some even laughed, but they respected me because I seemed confident and self assured. All the drama didn't bother me, I had the support of my family and my friends, so other people's opinions about what I was doing really didn't matter. I knew drastic steps had to be taken if I was to stand by my decision. By the time I completed college and moved to Atlanta I was already doing shows and experimenting heavily in the world of Drag. It was then that I knew that living as a woman (or becoming one for that matter) was what I wanted to do. Unfortunately this process would take more than a couple of years to even come close to perfect. Although I'm still on the drafting table, I now live 24/7 as a woman, the bravest decision of my life.

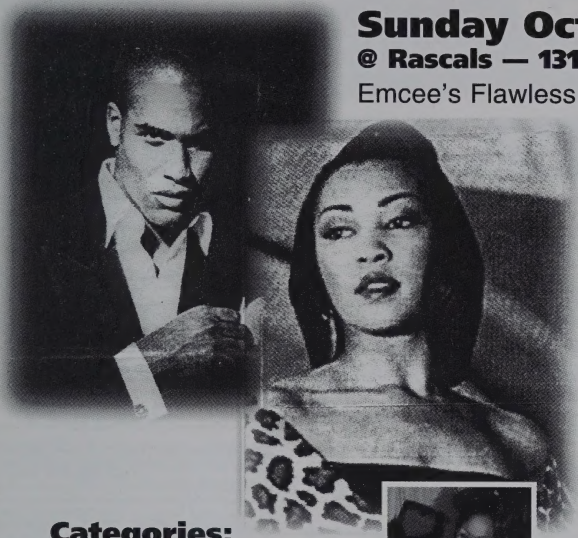
One of my first big hurdles was working for the Atlanta Public School System. I worked at Grady High School for two years. I applied for the position as female thinking I was "getting in". Well, needless to say, as a result of some speculation, I eventually had to tell the administration that I was close to undergoing my reassignment surgery just to be able to keep things fairly normal. After the initial issues died down, for example like what bathroom I'd be using, (female of course) or how should they address me (Damn, call me Dorian, what is so difficult about that.?) I had what one would call a "normal job". I actually loved it. I taught Drama, which was my major in college. From that point on I immediately began connecting with the students. We went on field trips, watched Broadway musicals on video ("A Chorus Line" was their favorite) and put on several productions for the school during the regular school day which had never been done before. I even acted as choreographer and assistant director for the schools annual Black History Month Celebration. Can you believe I even danced a solo to "Wade in the Water"? Well believe it, I did.

Dorian Kelley-Jahman

Oz Productions Presents

Mr. & Miss Black Houston Universe

The last official preliminary to the Mr. & Miss Black Universe Contest in Atlanta, GA.



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1998-99
Monte St. James
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Tevin St. James
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Guest Performers
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Categories:
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Sportswear- High Fashion
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Question & Answer

Monte St. James & Raquel Lord

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I brought excitement, not to mention fashion sense to that campus everyday. One of the only draw backs was dealing with some of the parents, who obviously studied along side Rush Limbaugh, Jimmy Swaggert, Newt Gingrich and former President of the United States, George Bush and did not want their children exposed to the real world. Well legally I knew they would have a hard time suggesting my termination. I was great at my job and the students loved me. Besides, they would have had a war on their hands, and they knew it. I eventually began doing diversity trainings and cultural sensitivity lectures at the school. I also doubled as a counselor for the "sensitive" issues the other counselors chose not to deal with. Take for instance the time we had a transsexual student on campus. Who do you think handled that case? Well, needless to say those trainings and workshops started generating attention from several different groups in the in the community, especially the black gay community. The requests for my attendance and participation in these types of workshops also began to increase. The next thing you know I was offered a full-time job working in that particular field. That just goes to show you that when you go forward into the real world, after the lights come on and the sun comes up, you have to be ready for any opportunity.

No matter how you choose to live your life you must know how to present yourself. I believe I came out at a very fortunate time. I also believe that we chart our own course for either success or failure, and I fully intend on succeeding. Although we have a long journey ahead, the trans community is slowly making a positive impact. We must continue on this journey if a real difference is to be made. You see, life for us won't be no crystal stair, but we can learn to climb those steps just the same.

Until next time.

the clikque connection

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Clikque Connection — Men Seeking Men

CALIFORNIA

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LET'S HOOK UP GWM, 45, 5'11", 180 lbs, 5'11", looking for other GWM to get together with. Race unimportant. (Santa Anna) ☎21469

BOTTOM LOOKING FORA TOP If you're serious and looking for a good time, leave me a message. Call me soon, I really need a hot top. (San Francisco) ☎14537

SHOW ME SOMETHING NEW Mexican-German M, looking for a friend to have fun with. I'm kind of shy and need someone to show me the ropes. If you're interested in showing some new ways to have fun, give me a call. (San Diego) ☎18549

LET'S HOOK UP SBM, 6'0", enjoys working out. Seeking someone special. (Los Angeles) ☎10037

MANIC PASSIONATE Heavy-set Mexican-American M, mid 30s, moderately hairy, beard, easygoing, laid-back, responsible, good-hearted and a romantic. Looking for muscular-stocky Latino/WM, late 20s-late 40s, with a good sense of humor. Muscular legs and hairy a plus. (Los Angeles) ☎17427

JUST ASK If you want a submissive, feminine M, who will do anything your heart desires, call me. (Victorville) ☎10798

I LOVE LATINOS Young, nice-looking GBM, new to the area, seeking Latino/HM, 18-24, with a respectable attitude. No Games. (Torrance) ☎15504

FLORIDA

FUN AND MORE Very attractive, bottom, 5'11", 170 lbs, brown/blue, goatee, swimmers build, available for fun and recreation with top and versatile tops. (Gainesville) ☎17758

COOL SOUTH AFRICAN BROTHER BM, 32, 5'6", brown-skinned, hairy chest, looking to meet a very attractive top Guys, 23+, to hook up with. (Miami) ☎17779

BE MY GIRL 27-year-old BM, looking for TV/TS, who want to have a good time with me. Give me a call. (Jacksonville) ☎19173

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR 50-year-old GM, college-educated, looking for young, attractive, hairy WM, for possible romance. ☎14006

GEORGIA

IS THIS YOU? Jay would like to meet an out-going, sensitive, honest SM, who wants to have alot of fun. (Atlanta) ☎21956

LOW-KEY GUY Good-looking, in shape, 38-year-old GWM, 5'9", 165 lbs., stable, n/drugs, varied interests. Seeking SM for dating, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎21781

SEEKING SIMILAR BM Very masculine BM, 5'7", 150 lbs, attractive, muscular and looking for a muscular, masculine BM, for friendship and possibly more. (Atlanta) ☎21586

MUST BE DISCREET Looking for a straight-acting brother for friendship and possible relationship. If you're down with that, leave me a message. Peace. (Atlanta) ☎20181

ISO A LIGHT-SKINNED BROTHER Black/Filipino/Puerto Rican M, 21, 5'4", 130 lbs, blonde/brown, looking for a light-skinned brother, 21-28, who's tall and built with a gorgeous body. ☎19400

I'M ALL THAT Very romantic BM, 5'7", medium brown, likes movies, hiking and walks in the park. Looking for a BM, 18-30, to hook up with. No fats and no femmes. (Atlanta) ☎17447

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP Looking for a nice, fun-loving Guy who loves dining out, movies and long walks. If this is you, give me a call. (Decatur) ☎13272

GOOD TIMES 23-year-old BM, very masculine, works outs and looking for good times with exciting people. (Atlanta) ☎19510

NO GAME PLAYERS Married, down-to-earth BM, 5'10", slim, D/D free. Seeking nice, out-going BM, 26-35, no games. (Atlanta) ☎19884

I'LL BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND 29-year-old, passable BCD, 5'9", 160 lbs, pecan-tanned, clean, discreet, ISO a secure Gentleman who knows what he wants and who has a sensitive side. (Savannah) ☎18756

JUST HAVING FUN 39-year-old dark-skinned BM, looking for Guys, around my age, to hang out and have fun with. (Georgia) ☎17612

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT Straight-acting, Married WM, 30s, 6'1", 210 lbs, long brown hair, hairy chest, seeking a passive BiM, who likes X-rated videos and exploring. (Atlanta) ☎17748

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 lbs, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth Latino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick it with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, leave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

TO RESPOND TO ADS...

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Only $1.99 per minute. You Must Be 18+ • Customer Service: 612-373-9783

the clikque connection

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 lbs, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth Latino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick it with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, leave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

I NEED IT REAL BAD Bi-curious BM, looking for someone to teach what this is like. Can you teach me? (Savannah) ☎20427

SKIN TO SKIN CONTACT Straight-acting Married M, 6'1", 200 lbs, long brown/blue, seeking slender, well-endowed BiM, who likes giving and receiving, oral and anal. Discretion expected and assured. Race unimportant. (Atlanta) ☎19150

ILLINOIS

NEED A HUG? Tall, masculine WM, seeking tall, masculine BM, with an insatiable desire to hug and be hugged. (Chicago) %21737

LOOKS UNIMPORTANT Smooth, well-endowed GWM, 27, 180 lbs, 5'10", black/blue, likes sports, movies, dining out, going out and having fun. Looking for a Latino/WM, 20-30, for friendship or possible long-term relationship. Nonsmoker and social drinker referred. (Chicago) ☎20105

I LOVE DRESSING UP Very hot, sexy CD in Chicago, looking for someone to play with and have fun with in the area. Leave me a message, I promise I'll call you back. (Chicago) ☎13469

TOP SEEKS BOTTOMS Dominant WM, 45, well-endowed, attractive, looking for smooth, submissive bottoms. Race unimportant. ☎13324

MICHIGAN

SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT? Nice-looking BM, looking for a good-looking BM, 22-42, 5'8"-6', to hang out with and possibly start a relationship. Let's get together and get to know each other. (Detroit) ☎11266

I'LL DO ANYTHING Good-looking BM looking for a hardcore Man who likes to do anything. If you're interested, call me up and we'll get together. (Detroit) ☎19650

NEW YORK

I LIKE LOTS OF THINGS 37-year-old M, really into oral and likes lots of things. Looking for an older Guy, 40-55, who would be interested in getting together with me. (New York) ☎19264

EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE Very active, good-natured, retired, daddy type, who wants to enjoy the rest of his life with a couple of young Guys. Must be W/H, 20s, 6'+, good-looking, reliable, health conscious, into working out and have six pack abs. (New York) ☎17556

TENNESSEE

BORING GUY? 26-year-old BM, 5'11", 184 lbs., dredlocks, brown eyes, enjoys cooking, reading, running, cleaning, employed, dogs. If interested, leave a message. (Memphis) ☎21869

LET'S CHILL Sexy, brown-skinned BM, 6'1", 150 lbs. Seeking SM, for friendship, possibly more. (Memphis) ☎10531

JUST FUN 35-year-old WM, brown/blue, tanned, toned and looking to meet a BM, 21-35, in the Memphis area, for a no strings, hot, sexual relationship. (Memphis) ☎21822

TEXAS

NOT A SEX AD! 42-year-old GBM, 5'11", average-looking big Guy with a great personality, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times. Seeking SM sincere, genuine to form a monogamous relationship. No games (Dallas) ☎21673

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

SKIN TIGHT LEVIS Professional swimmer, 5'8", 140 lbs, tanned, muscular, shaved, looking for a down-to-earth Guy, who likes swimming, working out, music, having fun and a lot of body contact. (Dallas) ☎21475

IS THAT YOU? Young BM, 5'8", heavy -set, brown/brown, looking for that special someone to share life with. (Houston) ☎19892

TRYING TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE BM, 21, 5'9", 160 lbs, smooth, slender build, very attractive, masculine and outgoing, looking for some cool people to hang with. Not really looking for a sexual relationship, right now, just friendship. ☎19913

BI GUY PREFERRED BM, 25, 5'5", 140 lbs, nice body, looking for a mature BIM, 30-50. No fats and no femmes. (Houston) ☎12765

POSSIBLITIES Bottom GHM, 37, smoker, drinker who loves to please his partner. Looking for a top W/HM. If you would love to start a new friendship with the possibility of a long-term relationship. ☎21406

HIT ME UP! 21-year-old BM, 5'9", 145 lbs, attractive, sexy and toned. Seeking a masculine, muscular, attractive Latino/BM who want to get with me. ☎20366

Clikque Connection Women Seeking Women

CALIFORNIA

LET'S HANG OUT GBF, 36, 5'7", 155 lbs., enjoys reading, walks, outdoors. Seeking SF who can give their time, must like to have fun, friends first. (Los Angeles) ☎22011

NEW TO THE AREA African-American Female, 33, two children. Seeking SF, 40+, preferably White, no ex-cons, 12-steppers, smokers, druggies, heavy drinkers or hang ups, must be positive and like children. (Los Angeles) ☎21948

I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU 37-year-old, feminine F, 5'3", brown/brown, Looking for a very open-minded, down-to-earth H/AF who like dining out, playing pool, dancing, movies, bowling and having a good time. All calls returned. ☎20711

ELECTIVE FEMME Very sensitive, spiritual African-American Woman, 40-ish, 5'9", vegetarian, loves film, drama, jazz, visual arts, the environment, walks by the ocean and nature. Looking for a vegetarian, feminine, spiritual, artistic Woman of color, who's independent and has similar interests. ☎18670

IS THIS YOU? Then call this sexy, assertive Femme, stable, loving, compassionate, drug-free, healthy, n/s, seeking sensitive Butch Woman, to share life with me, must love animals, must be sensitive, drug-free. (San Diego) ☎21620

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED 36-year-old PF, 5'6", 135 lbs, attractive, athletic, likes going out, walking, movies and romantic evenings at home. Seeking the same in a compatible Woman. If you're interested, give me a call. (Los Angeles) ☎19793

GEORGIA

BE REAL 30-year-old GBF seeking a real friend 25-35, great sense of humor, out-going, honest, for friendship, possible relationship. (Jonesboro) ☎21686

CALL ME SBF, enjoys movies, the beach, outings and watching tv. Looking for someone who's friendly, fun, open-minded and into travel. If you're looking for friendship and fun times, then call me. ☎11588

TURN ME ON Attractive, attached BiWF, 25, 5'2", 152 lbs, reddish-brown, looking for another Woman, 18-30, in the area to get together and explore new experiences. (Norcross) ☎19604

FEMALE BONDING 37-year-old Lesbian, looking for a proud, sincere, fit, feminine Lady who loves life, travel and spending time with someone special. I look forward to hearing from you. (Atlanta) ☎15429

ILLINOIS

ENJOY THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE? Affectionate, feminine, SBGF 23, 5'7", shapely but full-figured. Seeking SGF who enjoys the finer things in life. (Chicago) ☎21791

TENNESSEE

FRIENDSHIP FIRST SBF, looking for another BF to explore another side of life. This is my first time, so please be gentle. (Memphis) ☎14363

MY FAVORITE THINGS 27-year-old, feminine GBF, looking for GF for long walks, midnight talks and romantic evenings under the sunset. (Memphis) ☎21155

TEXAS

LICKABLE BiBF, 5'6", 140lbs, looking for a F to talk to and have a relationship with. (Houston) ☎20150

VIRGINIA

HELLO NURSE! 27-year-old BF, with three children, looking for a nice Lady who likes dining out, reading and having a nice time, for friendship and possible relationship. ☎16652

YOUR PREMIER GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below.

ATLANTA

CLUB FUSION, 550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR, W. Peachtree & 15th St., Midtown Atlanta, 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love wormen; 10pm-4am

LORETTA'S, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, 404-874-8125. Doors open 7 days

THE OTHERSIDE, 1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE, 91 Broad Street, Atlanta, GA 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

WAREHOUSE/TRAXX, 306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422 Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE

THE PARADOX 1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays

BIRMINGHAM

LATROYS, LAMASTIC 316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE

SCORPIO LOUNGE2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

CLEVELAND

DOMINOS, 612 Prospect Ave., 216-771-9020.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS 2909 Detroit Av., 216-574-2203. Black on Saturdays

CHICAGO

GENERATOR, 306 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60661, 312-243-8889.

GENTRY ON HALSTED, 3320 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

JEFFREY PUB, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago 60649, 773-363-8555.

RAILS, 1675 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, Il 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT, 1529 W. Armitage

DALLAS

METRO, 2204 Elm St., Dallas 75201, 214-742-2101.

CLUB ENVY, 216 N. Crowdus, Dallas , 214-987-4059.

DETROIT

CONTINENTAL 156 Monroe

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB, 12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK, 711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

ZIPPERS, 6221 E. Davison, 313-892-8120

DURHAM, NC

J&L's, 2627 Hillsboro Road, 919-286-5032

GREENVILLE, SC

NEW ATTITUDE, 706 W. Washington St., 864-233-1387

HOUSTON

INCOGNITO, 2524 McKinney St., Houston 77003, 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS, 1318 Westheimer, 77006. 713-942-CLUB. Open Thursday - Sunday from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS, 200 N. Mills St., Downtown Jackson, Ms. 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

JACKSONVILLE

THIRD DIMENSION, 711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

LOS ANGELES

BOYTRADE-EL REY, 5525 Wilshire Blvd.

CATCH ONE, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., 323-737-1159. Blackest on Saturdays

MEMPHIS

N-COGNITO, 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MIAMI/FT. LAUD.

CLUB OBSESSIONS 7900 NE First Ave.,

COPA NIGHTCLUB, 2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

SUGAR'S, 17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

NASHVILLE

THE CONNECTION, 901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

THE CHUTE COMPLEX, 2535 Franklin Road, 615-297-4571 Blackest on Wednesdays

THE GASLITE, 167 1/2 8th Ave.,615-254-1278

THE JUNGLE, 306 4th Ave. South, 615-256-9411

NEW YORK

CLIT CLUB, 432 W. 14th St., New York 10014, 212-406-1114. Fridays only Women.

CLUB HOUSE, 215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays

ESQUALITA, 301 West 39th St., NY, NY Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

KELLERS, 384 West St., New York 10014, 212-243-1907.

MANHATTAN MONSTER, 80 Grove St., New York 10014, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT, 1 Front St., Brooklyn 11201, 718-852-0139.

THE OCTAGON, 555 W. 33rd St., New York 10001, 212-947-0400.

THE WAREHOUSE, 141 E. 140th St., Bronx, NY. 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

NEWARK, NJ

MURPHY'S, 59 Edison St., 201-622-9176

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT, 120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32805, 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday.

CLUB QUEST, 745 Bennett Road, Orlando, Fl 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday,, Friday and Saturday

SOUTHERN NIGHTS, 375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS, 536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmonds African-American Club of True Diversity.

RUMOURS II, 1008 North Blvd.,804-358-3838

SAN FRANCISCO

THE ENDUP 401 6th St. 415-357-0827. Vlackest Sunday afternoon.

TALLAHASSEE

CLUB PARK AVENUE, 115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

WASHINGTON DC

BACHELOR'S MILL, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-1931.

CLUB DIVERSITE, 1526 14th St. N.W., Washington, DC 202-387-2338.

DELTA ELITE, 3734 10th St., N.E., Washington 20017, 202-529-0626. Gay on Friday and Saturday.

EDGE, 56 L St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

MR. P'S, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-9009.

Please inform us of any additions, deletions or modifications to this list

404-486-9655

Miss Georgia National At Large

Wednesday
Sept. 15th

Backstreet Atlanta
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Over $1,500 in cash & prizes

Official Preliminary to Miss national at Large
Nov. 10-12

Featuring

Dana Jacobs
Miss Ga. Natn'l at Lg '98

Shawnna Brooks
Miss National 1999-2000

Niesha Dupee
Miss Natn'l at Lg '97/98

Ashley Kruiz
Miss National 1998-1999

Sierrah Foxx
Miss Natn'l at Lg '97

Ce'zanne
Miss National 1997-1998

Mia Landon
Miss Ga. Natn'l 1999

Tina Devore
Official Emcee

Special Guest

Clarissa Cavalier

Miss National at Large 1998/99

ategories / Fees

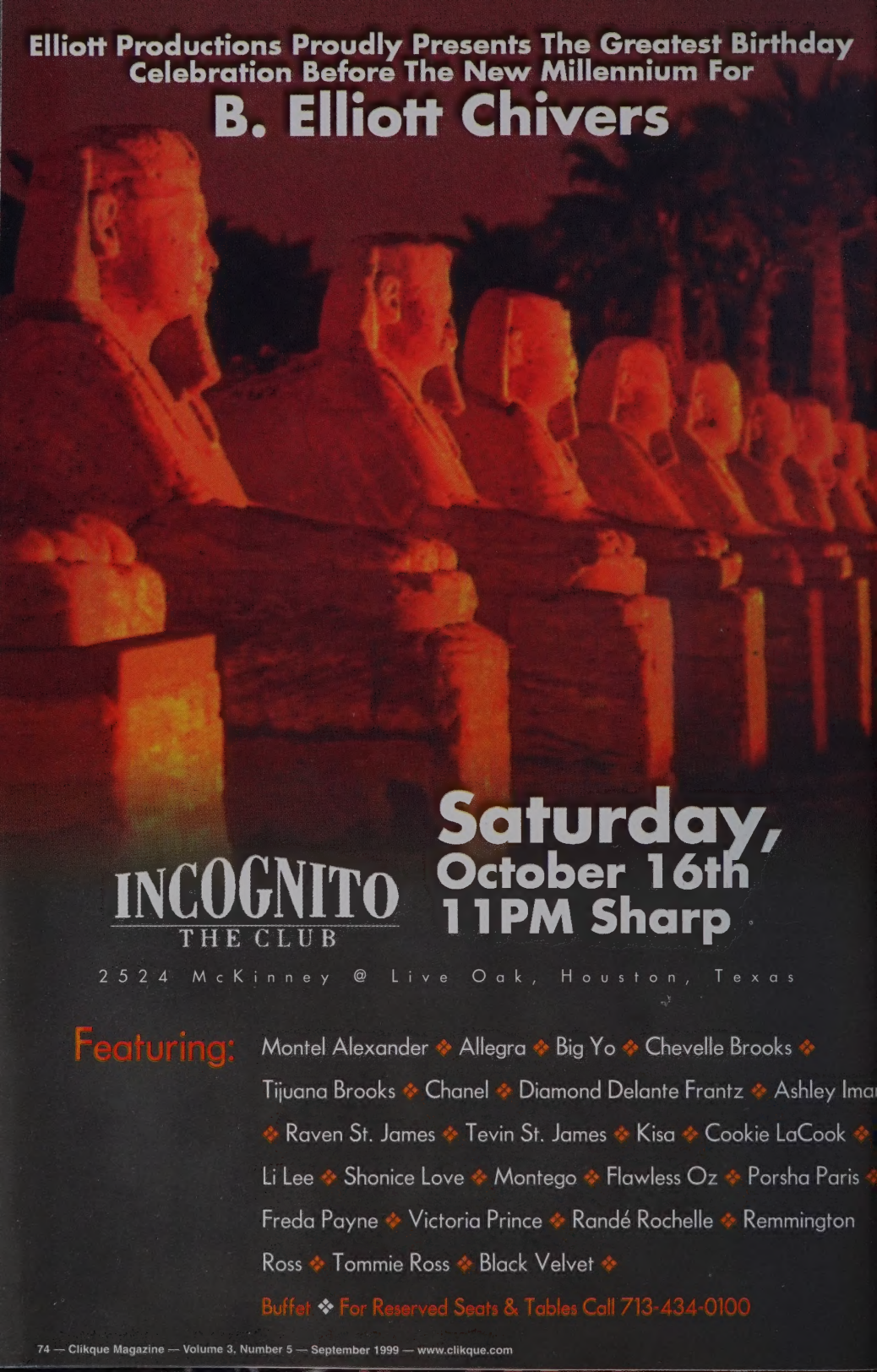
rsonal Interview • Creative Presentation (Show us your colors) • lent • Evening Gown • $100 Before 9/13/99 & $125 Day of

r Contestant Information Contact Charles Brown & Dennis agan 678-289-8017 or NPS @ 404-874-7714

ther Prelims

s Central Florida at Large 1999 — Sunday, Sept 12 • Parliament House, Orlando • 9PM nessee National at Large 1999 — Sunday, Sept 26 • Electric Ballroom, knoxville • 10PM

ntact NPS for Contestant Information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Li Lee ❖ Shonice Love ❖ Montego ❖ Flawless Oz ❖ Porsha Paris ❖
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Miss Black America
Tijuana Brooks
Kisa
Diamond Delante Frantz
Dynasty Escarda Ross
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(Special dedication to Lionel Brooks)

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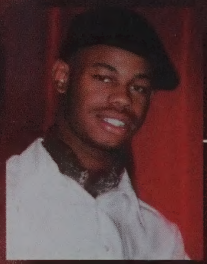


Monday
Sept. 20th

Ashley Iman
Tyra Brooks
Youlanda Adams
Jada Brooks

Sadarious Qua
Trevion Ross
Kendarius Oz
Tevin St. James

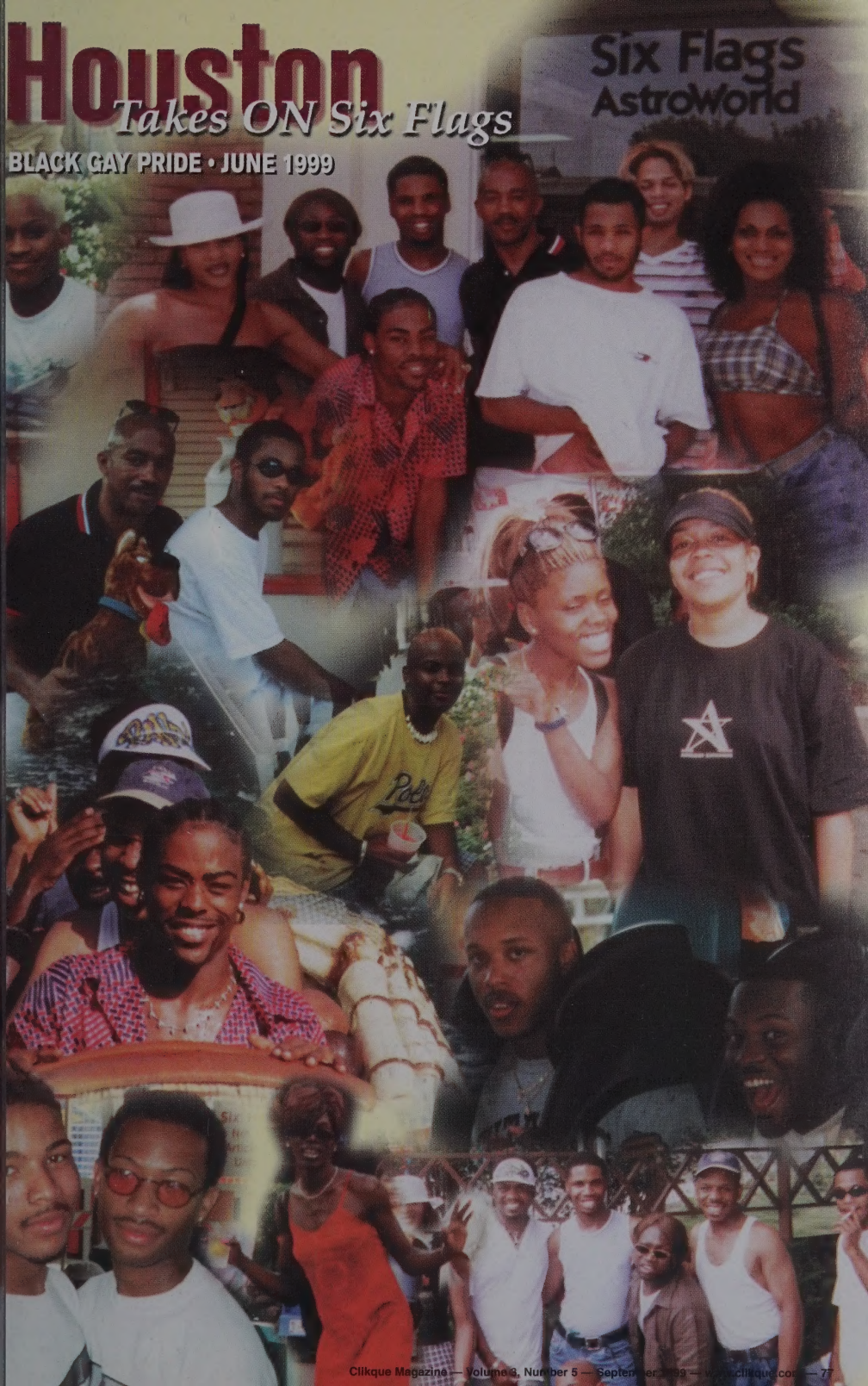
RASCALS

Rascals Nightclub
1318 Westheimer • Houston, Texas
713-942-CLUB • 877-210-CLUB

Houston

Takes ON Six Flags

BLACK GAY PRIDE • JUNE 1999



Categories

It is with a great sense of pride and pleasure that we here at Clikque Magazine, offer you a national pageant with a difference. Miss Clikque America. This pageant promises to elevate the art of female impersonation and to serve as a benchmark with its dedication to community service, while maintaining high standards of style, grace and sophistication. Miss Clikque besides being talented and smart, will make a difference in her community. She will use her title to serve others and assist in leaving an indelible mark on the people with whom she comes in contact.

Presentation — Contestants will choose their own attire in Blue to present themselves to the judges.

Talent — Anything a contestant considers talent will be given fair consideration. We do not want anyone to think that we are looking for something specific. Painting on the stage for 7mins is as much talent as doing a number. Or live poetry or singing is very much talent as is tumbling or ballet dancing or dramatic interpretation. Just bring it with precision and be point.

Evening gown — This is a formal wear category and should show off the highest in class and sophistication.

Interview — Because we are a literary magazine we expect our title holders to be able to speak and represent Clikque. Contestants will be expected to to have a platform (charity/service organization) and say what they admire most about Clikque. Or what improvements they would like to see made at Clikque. Interview should be 5 minutes and conducted OFF stage in business attire.

Miss Clikque America
PAGEANTRY SYSTEM

Miss Clikque Houston
Miss Clikque Houston — Tiffany Brooks
Tijuanna Brooks 1st Atl.

Miss Clikque Atlanta
Miss Clikque Atlanta — Paula Sinclair
Stasha Sanchez 1st Atl.

Miss Clikque New Orleans
Sept. 24th, 1999
Montreal Coleman — 504-943-5577

Miss Clikque Memphis
Nov. 7th, 1999
Terryl Buckner — 901-345-8031

Miss Clikque Birmingham
November 1999
Steven Daffin (Latroys) — 205-951-2163

Miss Clikque Jackson
November 1999
DeDe Labelle (CCL) — 601-713-1551

Miss Clikque Dallas
December 5th, 1999
Flawless Oz — 713-451-4433

Miss Clikque Washington, DC
Dec. 5th, 1999
Theresa Jackson — 202-543-4258

Miss Clikque Miami
Dec. 6th, 1999
Danyel Green — 954-484-7318

Miss Clikque Chicago *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque Detroit *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque Jacksonville *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque New York City *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque Philadelphia *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque Richmond *TBA*
MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Clikque America
Pageantry System

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931 Monroe Drive — Ste. 102-279,
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
404-486-9655
email: clikquem@aol.com
Web: www.clikque.com

The Last Scare of The Millennium

HALLOWEEN 1999

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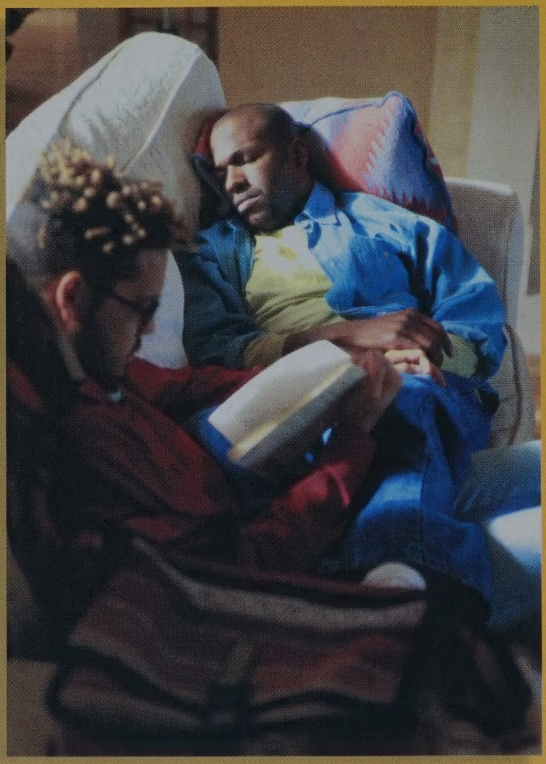

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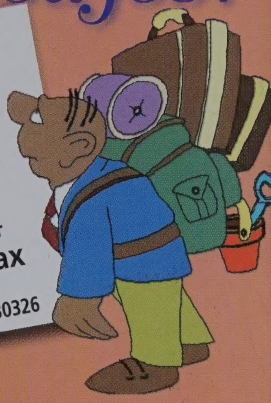

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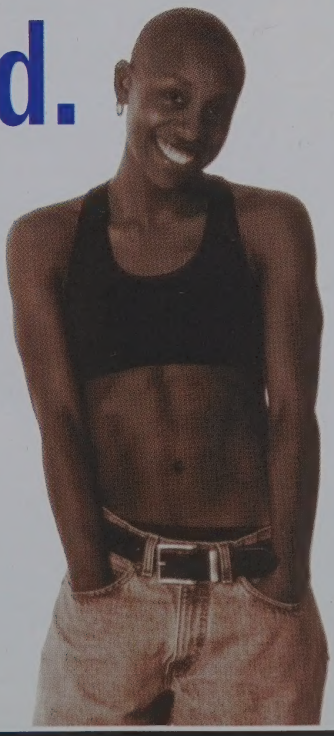

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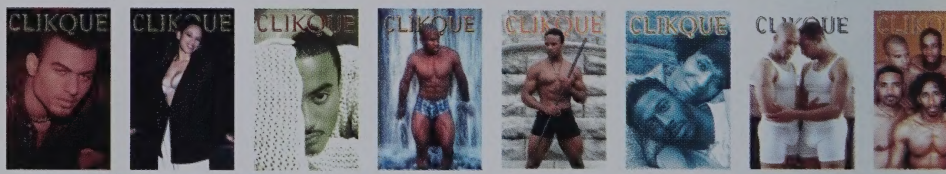

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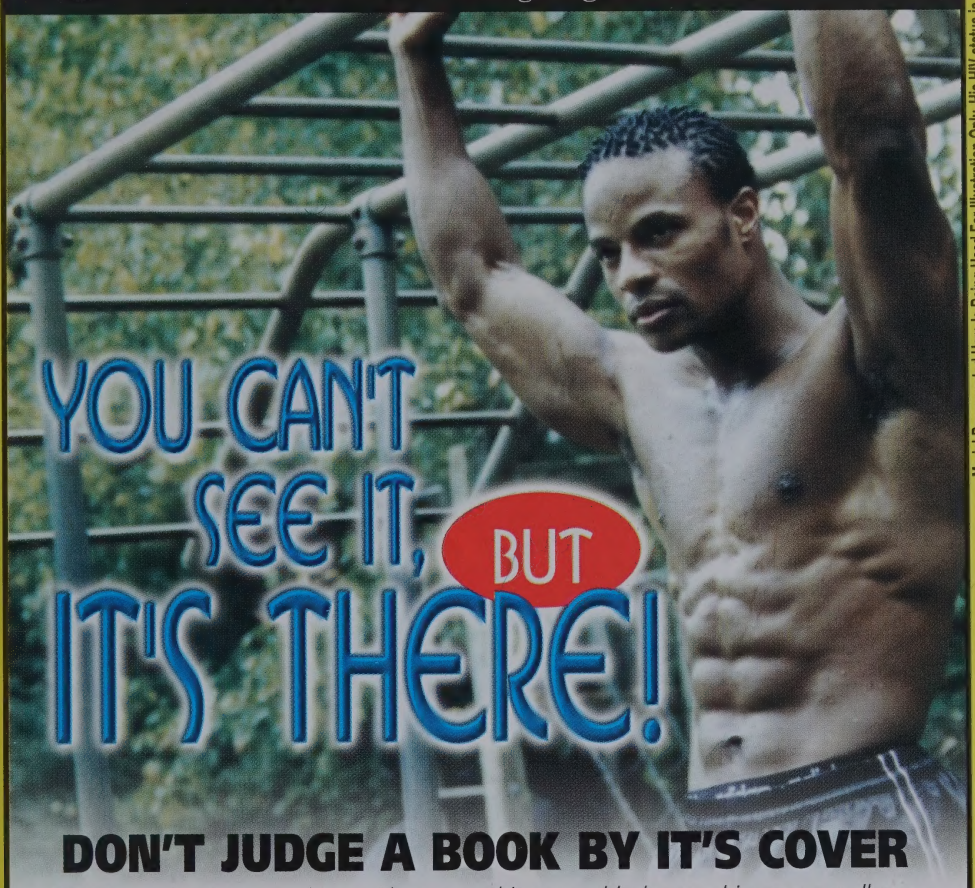

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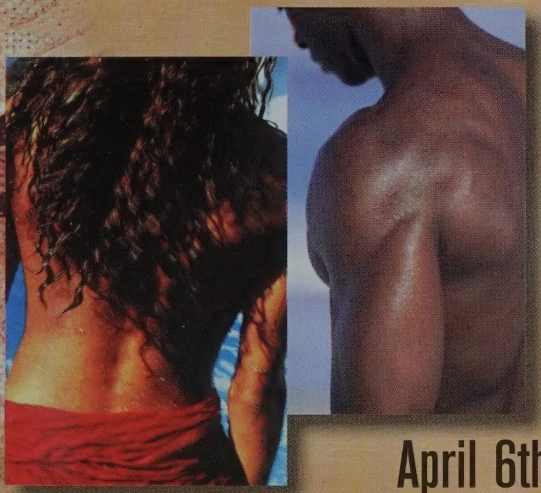

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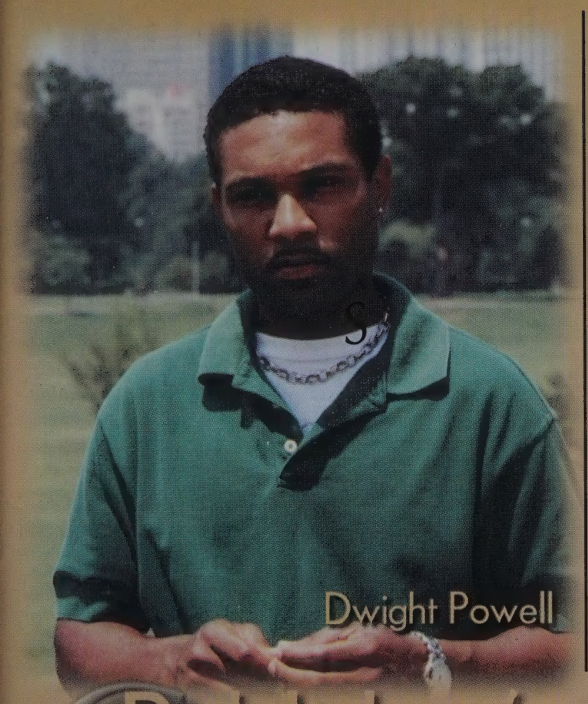

Publisher's Message

Clikque MAGAZINE

OK, by now some of you are probably asking yourself, Where are those guys at Clikque trying to go with this issue? Who are they trying to please? Well, first of all, it is you that we are trying to please...all of YOU! And it is in trying to please everyone that we often find ourselves running into walls. Walls, my friends, that we will prove aren't tall or long enough to prevent us from finding our happy place. While we acknowledge that we will never be able to please everyone, we will try our best to come as close as possible in attempts of doing just that.

As a loyal reader and supporter of Clikque Magazine, we would like to keep you inform about the course that we have charted for ourselves. Although we don't have any intentions of totally doing away with the flashy, skinned ads and features, we will however, reduce the amount of such material printed in each issue. Our Magazine is young, and still in it's early developmental stages. We trust that you will continue to support and enjoy the ride with us.

We will only get better with time.

Message of the month

The Following Is Chapter 6 of:
Don't Sweat The Small Stuff
by Richard Carlson, PH.D.

Remind Yourself that When You Die, Your "In Basket" Won't Be Empty

So many of us live our lives as if the secret purpose is to somehow get everything done. We stay up late, get up early, avoid having fun, and keep our loved ones waiting. Sadly, I've seen many people who put off their loved ones so long that the loved ones lose interest in maintaining the relationship. I used to do this myself. Often, we convince ourselves that our obsession with our "to do" list is only temporary—that once we get through the list, we'll be calm, relaxed, and happy. But in reality, this rarely happens. As items are checked off, new ones simply replace them.

The nature of your "in basket" is that it's meant to have items to be completed in it—it's not meant to be empty. There will always be phone calls that need to be made, projects to complete, and work to be done. In fact, it can be argued that a full "in basket" is essential for success. It means your time is in demand!

Regardless of who you are or what you do, however, remember that nothing is more important than your own sense of happiness and inner peace and that of your loved ones. If you're obsessed with getting everything done, you'll never have a sense of well-being! In reality, almost everything can wait. Very little in our work lives truly falls into the "emergency" category. If you stay focused on your work, it will all get done in due time.

I find that if I remind myself (frequently) that the purpose of life isn't to get it all done but to enjoy each step along the way and live a life filled with love, it's far easier for me to control my obsession with completing my list of things to do. Remember, when you die, there will still be unfinished business to take care of. And you know what? Someone else will do it for you! Don't waste any more precious moments of your life regretting the inevitable.

AIDS WALK ATLANTA '99

Minority Groups Support In Record Numbers

Walk Of A Lifetime

Atlanta- GA--

Walkers set their sights on success and achieve pay-dirt raising well over $1.5 million, with additional pledges and contributions still coming in. The 1999 AIDS Walk in Atlanta was the city's biggest success in the events 9 year history. The event is AID Atlanta's annual major fundraiser which also supports at least 14 other local groups and organizations.

Anthony McWilliams, AID Atlanta's African American Gay Outreach Program Coordinator, tells Clikque that "turn out was very well... from an African American perspective... it was a day we all come together...it was definately a success." He also notes that there were over 800 organizations (walking teams) represented this year. Clikque identified a serious African American contingency from well known local organizations to a myriad of walkers from within major corporations and organizations from the Atlanta area.

This year's theme revolved around regular people, not celebrities, responding to the call to fight the epidemic from a personal space. Responding to the call with statements ranging from promises made, personal commitment, and hope for the future, Atlantan's proved with their ***feet and funds*** that the commitment is deeper than *word soup!*

For those of us at Piedmont Park the walkers represented the most beautiful array of people- from all walks of life we came: mothers, fathers, grandparents, cousins, women, men, teenagers, babies, walkers with pets, walkers with partners, walkers in wheelchairs... walkers proving that together, and with a purpose, we can achieve and succeed. Imagine if we could build on the momentum and use it to tear down the walls of racism, sexism, homophobia, genderism, ageism, and religiousism. Sunday, October 17, 1999 Atlanta proved it is possible. On that day history, herstory, OURstory was made. What happens next is up to us.

Umoja & Nia 2000
(Unity and Purpose)

Peace.

by: *Darryl!*- for Clikque Magazine

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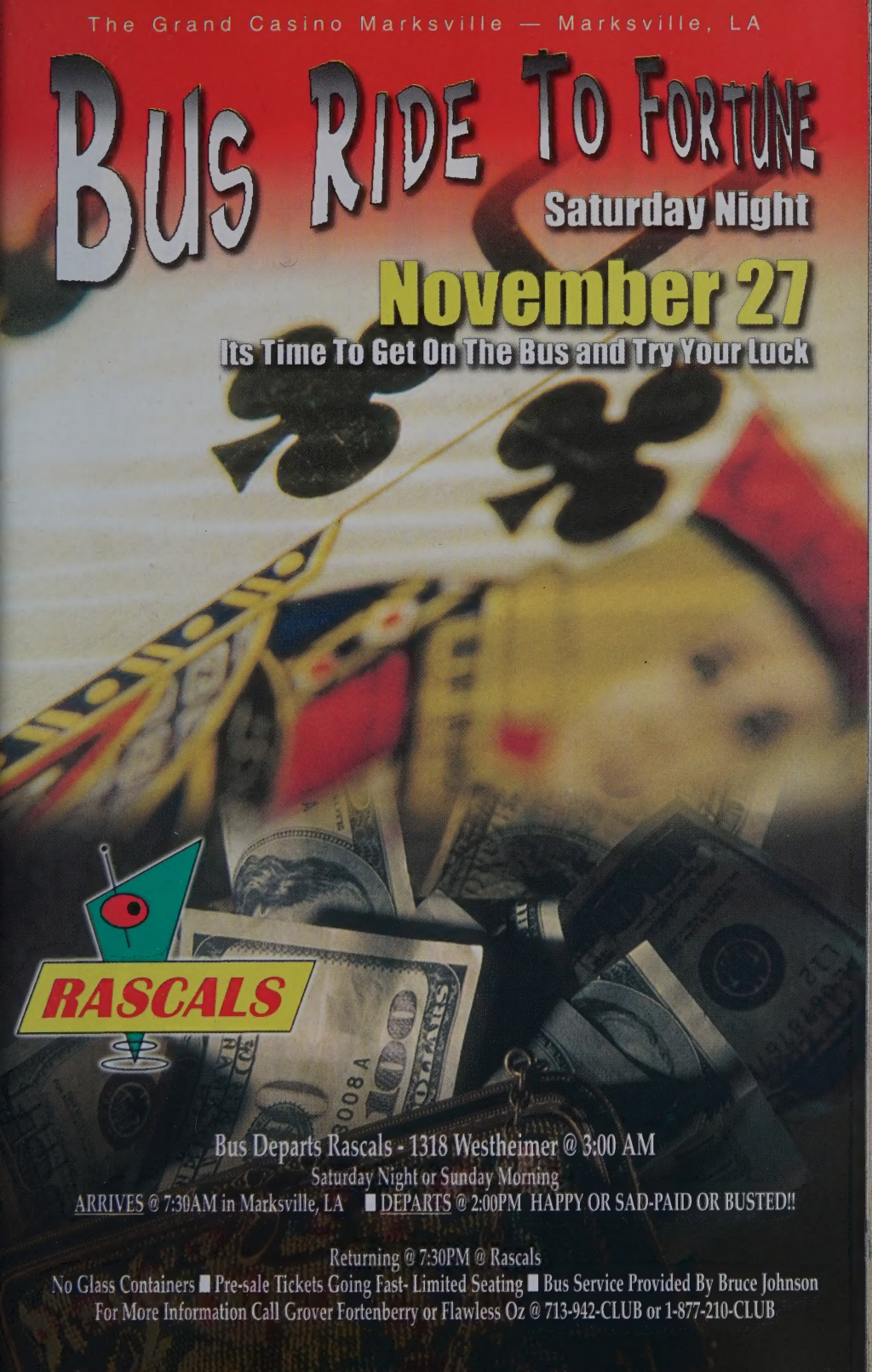

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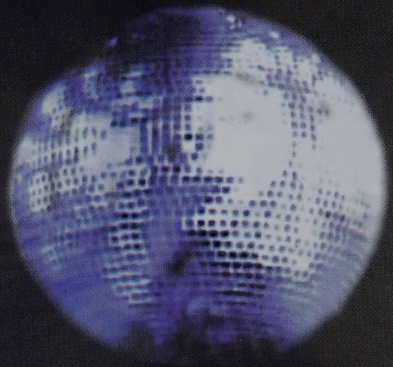

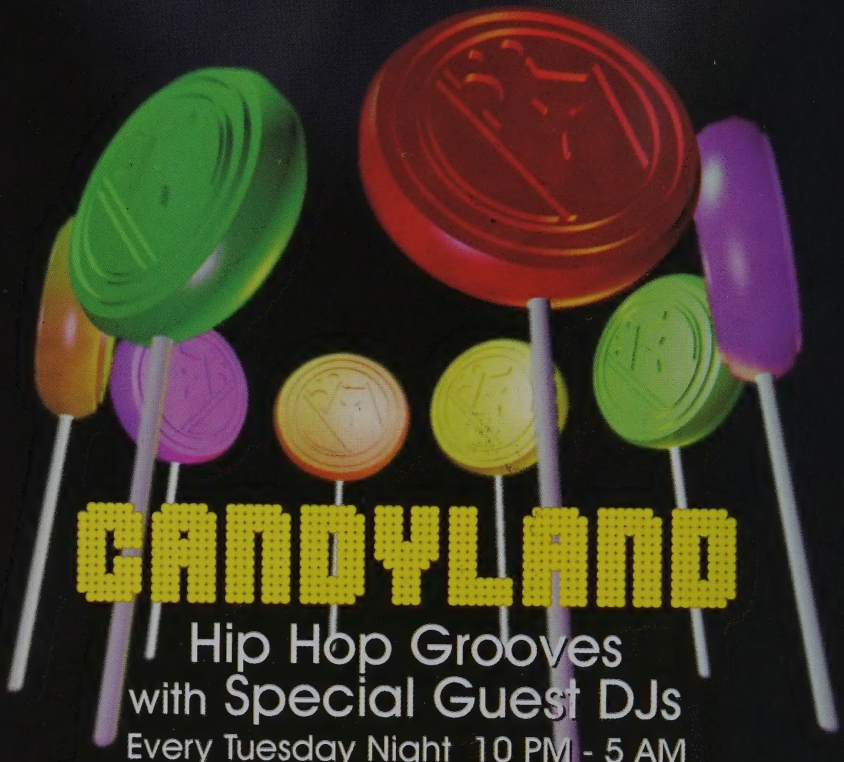

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PUBLISHER / EDITOR
Dwight Powell

COPY EDITOR
Darryl! L.C. Moch

OFFICE MANAGER / COVER COORDINATOR
Nestor Zapata

ART DIRECTOR / GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dwight Powell

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Ren Farmer

HIV / AIDS EDITORIALS
Don Sneed - Dallas, Tx.

BOOK EDITOR
Alaric Blair- Atlanta, Ga.

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Anthony Rucker - Gainesville, Fl.

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS
Scott Bogan - Atlanta, Ga.
Todd Edwards - Austin, Tx.

STAFF WRITERS
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Danny Chislom - Atlanta, Ga.
Queshan Hayes - Atlanta, Ga.
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Khalid Idawu - Atlanta, Ga.
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Dorian Kelley-Jahman - Atlanta, Ga.
Darryl! L.C. Moch- Atlanta, Ga.
Liz Marshall- Detroit, MI
Jason Michael- Detroit, MI
Remmington Ross- Houston, Tx.
Victor J. Stewart- Atlanta, Ga.
Craig Washington- Atlanta, Ga.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Sherri Jackson- Chicago, IL
David S. Landay- New York, NY
James Martin- Atlanta, Ga.
Pharaoh- Washington, DC
George Van Pinkard- Atlanta, Ga.

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Dwight Powell, Nestor Zapata,
Jason Michael

CARTOONIST
Michael Christopher

OWNER / PUBLISHER Dwight Powell
CO-OWNER Nestor Zapata
MARKETING Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc
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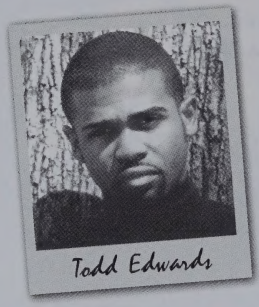
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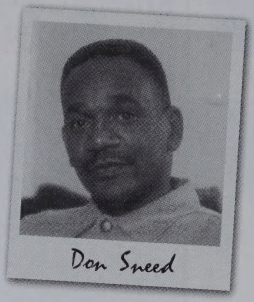
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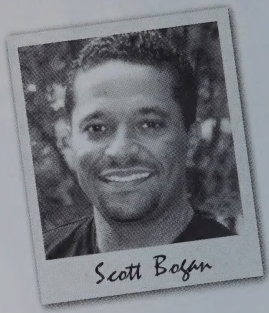
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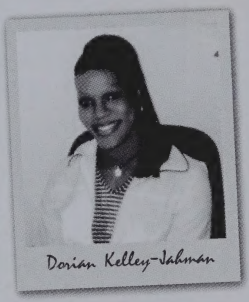
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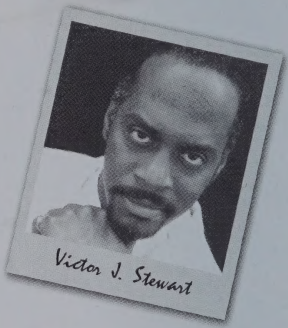
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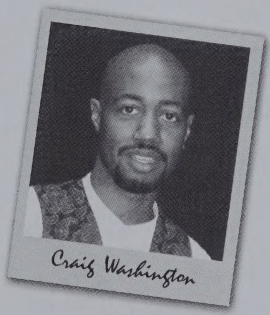
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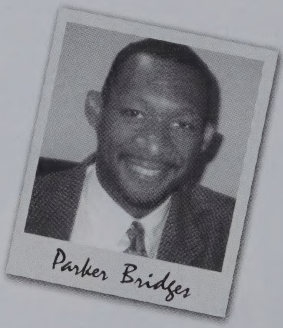
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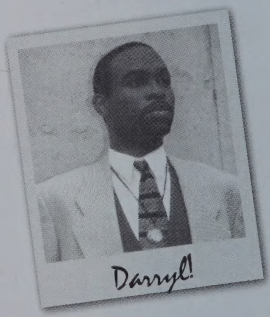
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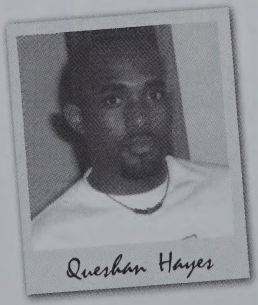
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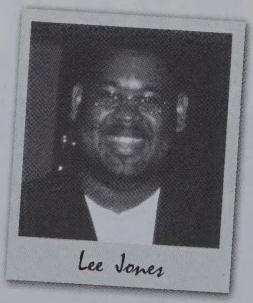
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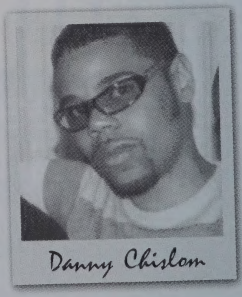
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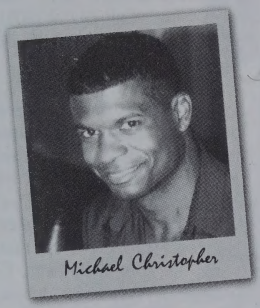
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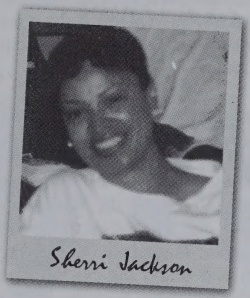
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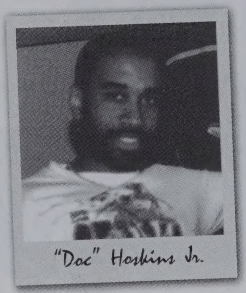
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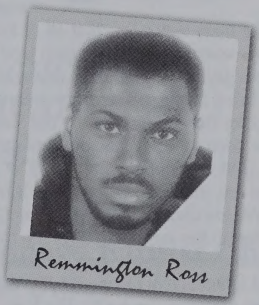
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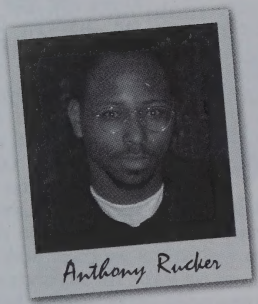
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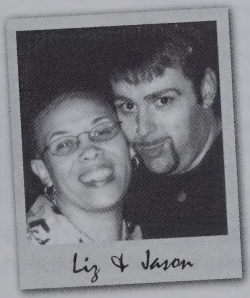
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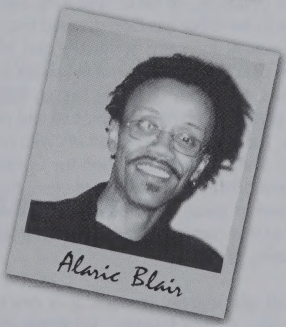
Alaric Blair

We are always accepting articles and short stories.

If you have an article or short story that you would like to have published in Clikque Magazine, send it via the various options below. Clikque Magazine does not publish articles that have already appeared in another publications.

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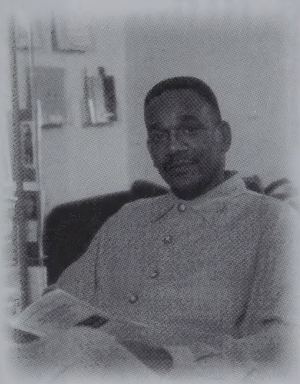
hiv/aids updates

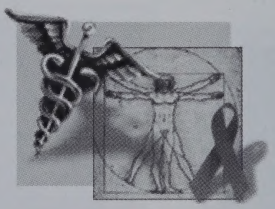
By Don Sneed - Staff



Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: October 26, 1999 reporting from the Southwestern Front: Dallas, Texas. Another pot of fresh coffee as I move into the 15th hour of this work day. Let me get down to the brass tacks and clear the air and, directly but not discretely, answer any questions that anyone may have about my article in last month's edition of, this, our Clikque Magazine.

Eu-men is not a dream, fantasy or delusion. It is the reality of our future. All of this gay shit is history. Get ready to throw it into the trash can of your memory. There is a new Sun rising up angry in the sky. There is a new voice crying I am not afraid to die. I'll let the old world make believe, they are blind, death and dumb but nothing can change the shape of things to come. What's coming is the mass realization that all of this religious mumbo jumbo about Eu-men (formerly so-called Black gay men {and that is the last time that I am going to use the words gay and homosexual in any of my articles - so take a few moments to savor it}) being abominations and condemned to die and burn in hell is a bunch of bullshit! Like I told the brothers in our Safer-Sex workshop tonight these preachers that have been spurning that foolishness are clueless when it comes to the reality of what, God the Supreme Being and all of His/Her encompassing Love, is all about. God has made us, Eu-men, for a unique and specific purpose. We are beautiful. We are chosen and favored by God. We are the elite of his children. We are the key to the manifestation of the New World that is upon us. If you want to believe and internalize the hatred, based upon, centuries old, lies and ignorance of Divine Reality, that these windbag preachers are peddling, so be it. The long and short of it is that nowhere in the Bible has God decreed that Eu-men who love other Eu-men, mentally, spiritually and physically are abominations or condemned to burn in hell for eternity. Jesus the Christ was a Eu-men (Eunuch), never had sex with a woman and preferred the mental, spiritual and physical company of men. (I didn't say that he had sex with men - that part is irrelevant.) During that incarnation the Christ vehicle had progressed beyond the sexual. Nevertheless, the Christ vehicle, also known as Jesus, never condemned, hated or decreed that we are abominations. All of this crap came along after the fact. Love for one another, in all of its embodiments, is the key.



What you call and identify yourself as is crucial to your development and performance in life. I am a Eu-man. What would you rather be a punk, fag, sissy, queer, those other two words that I will not use again or a Eu-man? Try it on for size. See how it fits.

Jackson State University's National Alumni AIDS Prevention Project, now under the direction of Dr. Mark Colomb, has received funding to provide Community Capacity Building for Eu-men throughout the Southern United States. As a protector and defender of my brothers in this war against HIV/AIDS I want you to know that we can trust JSU to do the right thing. Renaissance III is partnering with JSU, as a subcontractor, to assist in the provision of this Community Capacity Building. What is CCB? It is a service that we will provide to assist our brothers in various areas throughout the South to increase their ability to fight the spread of HIV and help those already infected in a coherent, organized and collective manner. Many were called but only a few were chosen by the Centers for Disease Control and I submit to you that JSU is the best of the chosen. I don't kiss ass and suck up. I am stating the facts. Do members of your local community need help in organizing to fight HIV? Do the smart thing. Call JSU at (601) 974-6053 and we will be there like the Marines.

I want to take this opportunity to thank some special people who have helped create an awareness, a process and an energy that we will soon be seeing the results of as these new CDC funds hit the streets and the people selected to start doing the work: Dr. George Roberts, George Bellinger Jr., Raymond Dumas, Carl Devine, Dr. J. Lawrence Miller, Rudy Carn, Alvin Quamina, Jim Harvey, Steve Walker, Sederick Gardner, Dr. Ron Simmons, Dr. Mark Colomb, Mr. Rennie (New York) and a host of others. I have had my differences with many of the aforementioned but the goal, helping Eu-men defeat HIV is greater than any differences or disagreements that we may have or had. Let us proceed with our eyes on the prize.

I want to give a special shout out to Kevin, the host of our agency's first "Lets Talk About Sex, Baby - Safer Sex Workshop (beyond the birds and the bees to the nuts and the bolts of safer-sex). Kevin you are what a young Eu-man is all about. You opened up your home to your brothers so that we could work on saving our lives. The workshop was a resounding success and over half of the people in attendance took advantage of the on-site HIV Orasure test because they are tired of the "if I've got it then I don't want to know" bullshit. Again, thank you my brother and together we will only get better.

It's a new day. Nothing is harder to stop than an idea whose time has come to pass. Eu-men; it is now our time to pass. Love and Peace be with you all until next month.

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Benefiting:

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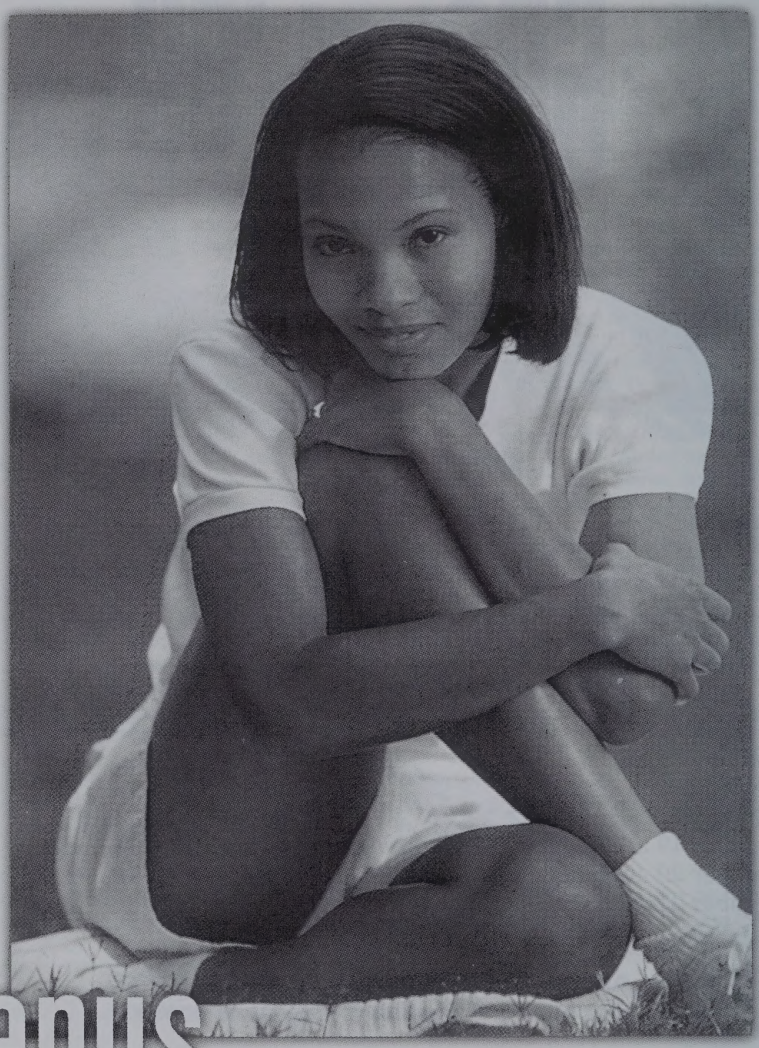
828 West Peachtree, Suite 206, Atlanta, GA 30308, 404-874-7926

By: Sherri Jackson



Venus
My Enchantress

Venus was my long time confidante, and lover in another life. She was my secret, our secret. I'll never forget the first time I saw her standing next to a beautiful statue at the museum, checking out history. I thought she was as sultry and mythical as the female statue she stood next to. I thought then that it was her deep knowledge of the art which impressed me so deeply, but now I know better. She was beautiful, and had full, sensuous lips. She was lovely, in a very odd and rogynous sort of way.

Her straight, short, black haircut, and radiating brown eyes were a tease. She wore tailored suits with a tie, and nail polish to boot! Clear to a very light beige it appeared. This was to blend in with her honey, almond skin tone. And she was quite tall. She towered above me when I stopped her leaving the museum.

By the end of our conversation at the museum, I knew it was the lady behind the savvy, professional image I was attracted to. I am sure she knew this, because I made the first move.

Venus and I spent lots of time together, it was years of time I recalled. Thank God for the encounter nine years ago. She became my confidante, inspiration, and my love hopefully in another time and place. We took trips together, slept in each others arms, sometimes in the spoon position we did this. We read stories to each other, and on occasion gave each other a friendly peck on the lips. I would dream at times of kissing her very sensuous and slowly. The thought of this made my nipples stand erect. My whole body anticipated her touch. I wondered did Venus feel this way? I was probably the only one really tripping in this friendship or unspoken love.

I remember these settings of very indiscreet, intimate, and intoxicating moments together. She would on occasion ask me to look deep into her eyes when we spoke to each other. This made me very nervous. It also made me very hot, and those womanly zones between my legs would throb and quiver. I hoped like hell she was just as wet and hot. We stood face to face holding each other tight telling each other "I love you". This happened on several occasions. This was always spoken very sincere, sensuous, and with a subconscious undertone.

It was a cold February morning. I phoned her at work to ask her could she make time for me in the evening? We would have dinner, and I would finally tell her how I have truly felt for her all these years. I expressed to her I needed to have a very serious chat. I hoped this would not change the dynamics and bond we have shared all these years. I told her we were different and I wished for nothing to come between us. I said, "Venus I have tried to speak to you about this so called friendship of ours many times". I thought as we both paused, did she know I was just a little jealous watching her walk into the party Friday night with another woman. This party had 2,000 women so why was I getting all bent out of shape. Just two nights prior she phoned past midnight to talk. She asked me, "Simone why did you leave me when you were with her?" I said, "baby I never left you, you are truly my girl". She responded "Simone you did leave me it may not appear that way to you". I asked her was she alone. She was honest and told me no she wasn't. She told me, "Simone you could have all the time you wish, but you never ask me". I could not say anything except "I love you Venus and have a good night". The silence was broken over the phone. She responded, "say no more I think I know where you are going with this talk. I need eye to eye contact when you say it. My gosh did she feel the same I wondered. We agreed to meet for dinner and have Mexican food that night. We said our goodbyes and hung up the phone.

We greeted each other at the restaurant with a hug and friendly kiss on the lips that evening. The place was not very crowded, and the setting was perfect. I thought if I am about to make a complete ass out of myself least the place is nice. The restaurant had beautiful portraits of Latin history. It was very intimate and quite. We ordered cocktails and made small talk of the day. She told me about work and new ventures she was thinking of doing. I looked across the table at her. She looked so lovely, and her lips showed a certain sensuality. Her scent was erotic, and mesmerizing as I recalled on many nights together. The waiter returned to the table, asking "Will you ladies be ordering now?"
We ordered our food and continued to talk. I kept look-

Continues on Page 72

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THINKING ABOUT SELLING YOUR LIFE INSURANCE?

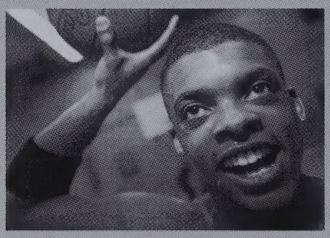
AN OVERVIEW

Too many people with HIV, cancer, sickle cell or other life-challenging conditions who could use their life insurance money now don't consider the option of selling their coverage for reasons that need to be reconsidered. This article sheds some much needed light on the subject.

Simply put, a sale of an existing life insurance policy, also known as a Viatical Settlement, is a sale of the policy in exchange for an amount of cash less than the death benefit.

Many people aren't aware that life insurance provided by your employer can be salable and make the mistake of dropping the coverage when work ends. Sometimes the coverage can even be sold while you are still working. If you leave work, whether you go on disability or take another job or just to take some time off, you can usually take the insurance with you and sell it after you leave.

You've got a life to live, enjoy it



Some people have raised the issue that a sale is a moral issue, or somehow cheating the insurance company. There is no question of morality to be considered, just the balance of your need for the money now against the need of whoever you named as beneficiary of your policy. A sale doesn't cheat the insurance company. In fact, insurance companies have added a provision to many policies which lets you get the money from the insurance company. If you can qualify for those programs, they are usually better for you than a sale.

Once you sell a policy, you can do anything you want with the money. You may want to use the money to keep from dying, including money to quit your job so you can concentrate on your health, or to get drugs and health care you can't afford, or even for housing. You can also use the money for any life-long dreams or any other use. It's up to you.

There's also the misconception that an investor can come after you if you live longer than expected. You can eliminate even the hint of a problem if you only sell to a large company that uses it's own money or, if it lets individual investors purchase a policy, doesn't let the investors know your name.

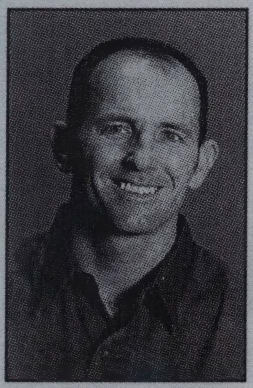
You should only consider a sale when you consider all the factors involved.

The bottom line is that selling a life insurance policy can be a major benefit to you now, when it counts, and is one of the alternatives to consider if you need cash.

By: David S. Landay

David S. Landay is President of NVR, a viatical settlement consultant and brokerage firm. He is author of a free guide about accessing money from a life insurance policy, Every Question You Need to Ask Before Selling Your Life Insurance Policy.

Selling your life insurance? Calling me makes dollars — and sense.



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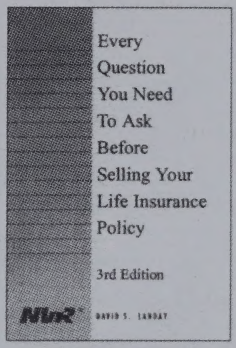


NVR ™
National Viator Representatives, Inc.

AID Atlanta's fourth annual Shopping for Life takes place Saturday, December 4, 1999

This holiday season, you can give two gifts for the price of one! On December 4, merchants donate a percentage of the day's sales to benefit AID Atlanta. Your loved one will enjoy their gift, and you'll love the fact that you're helping to fight AIDS in Atlanta. Look for the Shopping For Life logo in your favorite stores, and save your holiday shopping for the first Saturday in December. Visit the AID Atlanta web site (www.aidatlanta.org) for a complete listing of this year's participating stores.

For more information, call Deborah Ryan, Special Events Manager at (404) 870-7732.

SHOPPING FOR LIFE

Shopping For Life 1999
Presented by
BellSouth Mobility

Visit our website for a
list of participating stores.
www.aidatlanta.org

Photo by: Umari

Nubian Spirit

By: Darryl!

Destiny's Design

Harambee!

Sistas and Brothas, as the season of sun and fun is quickly ebbing away we take the opportunity to reflect on the happenings of this past year. Think back to the last months and days of 1998 when you began considering things you wanted to be different in your life in 1999. Think now to the resolutions that you may have made, verbally and/or spiritually. And now evaluate how much you have actually accomplished in the last 10 months of 1999. Have you maintained your resolutions? Have you made the necessary changes in your life to propel yourself into the new millennium with power and prosperity- in mind, body, essence, and spirit? If after you take a few moments of introspection you find that there are areas you still have to address or that you have forgotten your resolve many months ago, it is not too late. Whatever your goals may have been you still have time to make steps towards them. If, for instance your goal was to eat a healthier diet and you have found that chocolate, pizza, burgers, and fries have been your mainstay- accept that and begin to make changes now. Was your goal to be perfect or to make a change? Do not give up on yourself. Your destiny is in your control. If you start thinking negatively about yourself you will find it increasingly difficult to do anything positive for yourself.

The concept is simple. The year is not over. The changes or additions to your life are still possible. Create what you want. If, like many of us, you wanted to find that mate this year. There may not be enough time left to determine if that someone new is "the one;" but it is not too late to look at who has been in your life this year and what you learned from those experiences to be ready for "the one" when she/he arrives. Refocus the energy on being available and ready than on whether you were successful in having the mate or not. You can choose to look at your life, and your personal evolution, as moving forward or as stagnant, positively or negatively, productive or counter productive. How you view yourself is how you will feel about yourself and ultimately how you will experience yourself in the world.

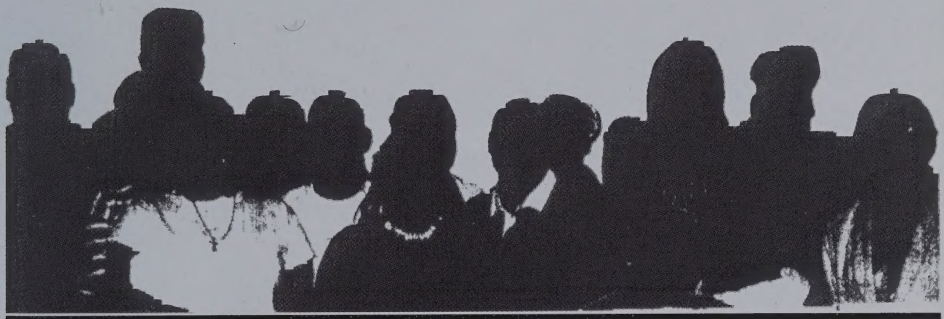
In a conversation with a friend the other night, who happens to be a subscriber to Clikque, he mentioned that he often hears negative things about people. But he strives to find something good in each person such that when he walks away from the conversation he will say "yeah…he/she may be this or that but I do like this or that about him/her." If we adopt that attitude we might just find that the people we dislike the most still have something good to offer or that we might have something good to offer to them. And if we adopt the same attitude towards ourselves we might be able to avoid the precipitants of depression and loneliness often associated with the upcoming holidays.

As we move into the season of giving and good cheer and as we begin also to focus on the needs of others rather than our own, it is still ok to take some time to give to yourself. Stay strong and be of good courage. Hold on to the good that life has. Remember your destiny is designed by you.

Peace and Blessings.

Next time: Defeating the enemies within- depression, anxiety, and loneliness.

Black People Get AIDS TOO



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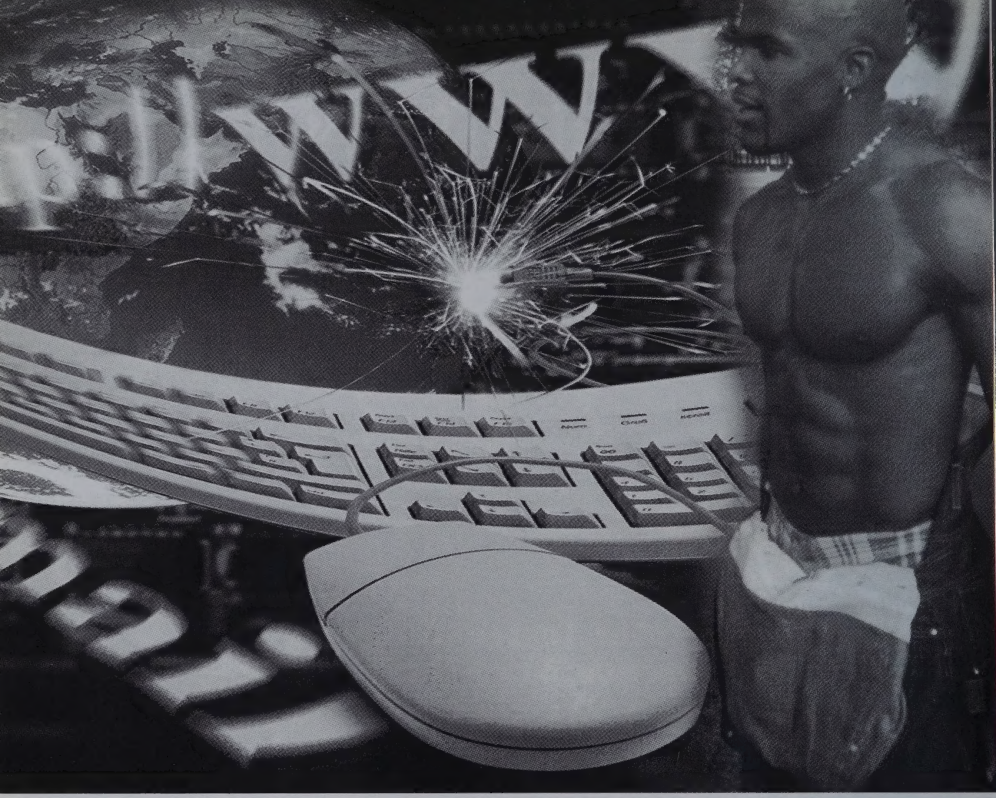

Untangling the net

By Lee Jones

The Internet is one of the most remarkable tools ever invented. Anyone with a modest amount of funds and knowledge of html or Java can launch a website highlighting any subject or interest that appeals to its author. One of the interesting developments over the past five years is the explosion of African-American gay websites. An ever-increasing number of webmasters are catering to an invisible but hungry population. The popularity of these websites is due in no small part to the fact that anyone with a computer, a modem and a phone line can get access to this material. There is no risk of being seen at a club or seen purchasing a black gay magazine or spotted patronizing an X-rated movie theatre. Anyone can access a website from the privacy of his or her own home or work. This anonymity has made black gay websites a very valuable and profitable venture. But the very thing that makes black gay websites so appealing is the very reason that some of the content of these websites should not be taken seriously.

Nearly all the African American gay websites feature the usual erotic pictorials that are accessible for a fee. But one of the best features – and perhaps the single feature that attract more visitors than the erotic photos – is the personal ad section.

Americans at the end of the 20th century find themselves living in increasingly isolated environments. We are working more hours per week than anyone else in the world and as a result we have limited time for leisure activities. Thus, there are more people who are single because they don't have the time or energy to partake in social activities. To many, the Internet is their social activity. We can do a number things via the Internet that we used to only be able to do either at a store or talking to a person on the phone. Tasks such as buying clothes, music, airline tickets, food, magazines and even car shopping can be done via the Net. Now black gay websites have made dating and cruising available via your computer. There are more pages of personals in black same gender loving male-oriented websites than there is of any other material. Personals are popular. A website that does not have a personals section is probably not receiving very many hits at all.

Over the past few days I have been perusing a number of black gay-oriented websites looking at personal ads. Most of the

CONTINUES ON PAGE 68

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When used properly, latex condoms are effective against Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and most STDs.

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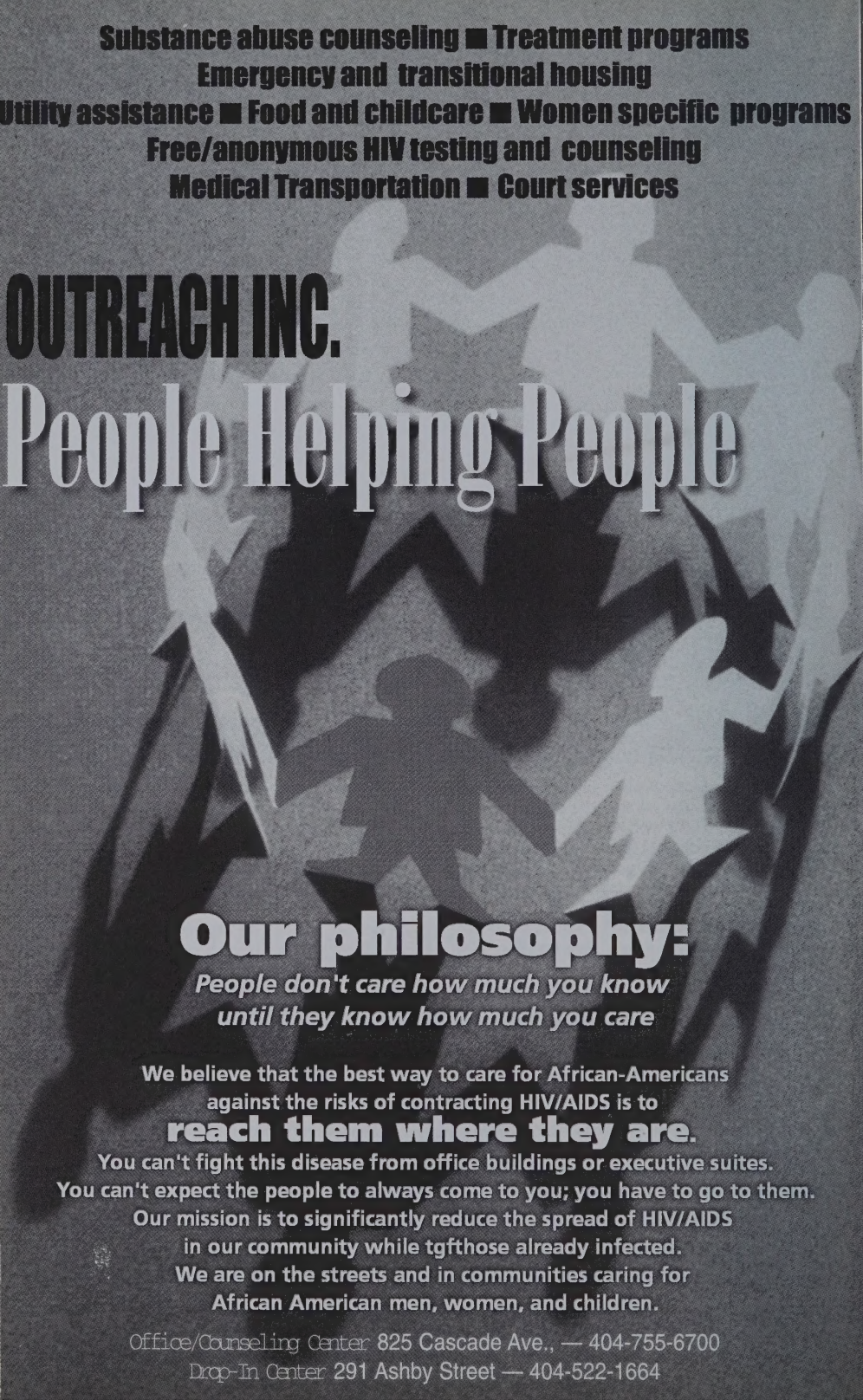


Our philosophy:

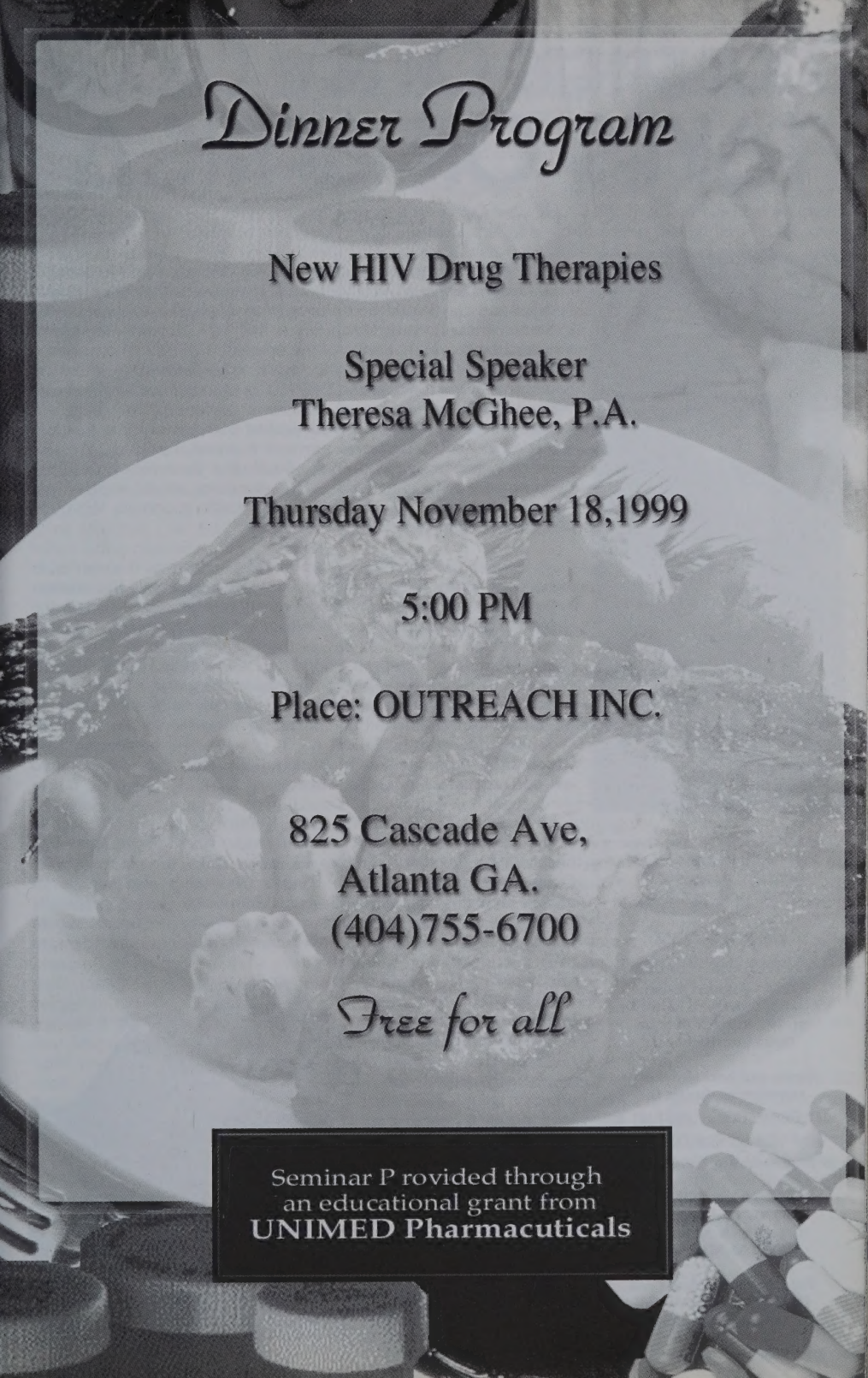
People don't care how much you know
until they know how much you care

We believe that the best way to care for African-Americans against the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS is to

reach them where they are.

You can't fight this disease from office buildings or executive suites.
You can't expect the people to always come to you; you have to go to them.
Our mission is to significantly reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in our community while tgfthose already infected.
We are on the streets and in communities caring for African American men, women, and children.

Office/Counseling Center 825 Cascade Ave., — 404-755-6700
Drop-In Center 291 Ashby Street — 404-522-1664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Free for all
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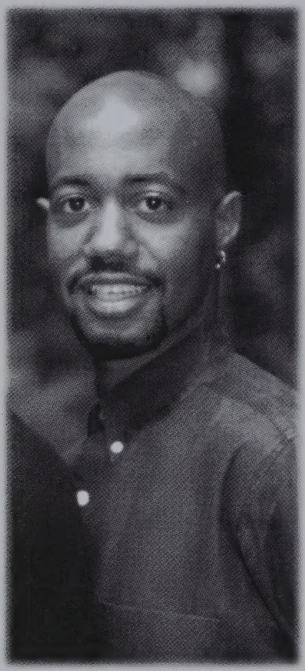
Craig Washington



SONG invites you to share our "Lessons From South Africa" at a community report and reception

Wednesday
November 17th
@7PM - Auburn Avenue Research Library Auditorium at 101 Auburn Avenue (near Courtland St).

Come and hear about our experiences during the
International Lesbian & Gay World Conference
in Johannesburg, South Africa.

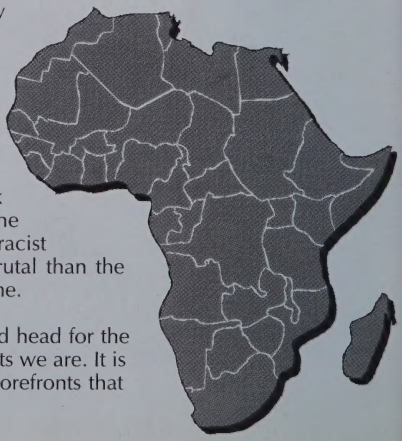
Your hosts will be SONG Co-Directors Craig Washington and Pam McMichael.

For more info, please call (404)-249 -8788 or email song4cw@aol.com.

On September 18th -25th, SONG Co-Director Pam McMichael, board member Termain Kyles and I attended the International Lesbian and Gay World Conference primarily because it was hosted in South Africa. Because South Africa, like the U.S. South represents a watershed victory not only for the oppressed people who earned it but also for those around the world who believe in freedom. Southerners On New Ground (SONG) is an organization that helps integrate work against racism, sexism and economic injustice into lesbigayrans organizing and work against homophobia into freedom struggles to build progressive movement across the South. We saw parallels between our work in the South and the level of coalition-building between gay activists, ANC organizers, artists, trade unionists and others who together helped dismantle apartheid. We obviously felt we had something to learn here.

Soweto, an acronym for South West Township. A township is like a community, like a village, like da hood, was once like a reservation, like a penal colony, like a ghetto under siege (excuse the redundancy), has always been home for thousands of black people in South Africa. On the 5th day of the ILGA conference Pam and I joined other attendants for a guided tour to this fabled place. It is one of many townships here, but for the rest of the world it stands alone as an example of black uprising victorious. Like Selma or Stonewall, it's the living landmark of a liberation movement. Like Haiti or Wounded Knee (in the U.S.of A.), it is a timeless battleground on which brown people fought back artfully with fists, handcrafted weapons and any other means necessary.

As we approach the township, I notice the layout of concrete structures that clearly mark its front border (including a sprawling hospital complex that resembles a fortress). David (one of two young Conference participants from Durbin who were also serving as guides) explains that these physical boundaries were strategically built to ensure state control over how and when residents would leave and enter their environs. My mind scrambles to match Soweto to an American reference. Is this another version of Donny Hathaway's "(yes,this is..)The Ghetto"?! Echoes of poet/prophet Gil Scott Heron chanting "can you tell me what's the word...in Johannesburg?" recall the 70's when many black Americans first heard the funny word for a foreign racist system seemingly more brutal than the one from home sweet home.



We park, pile out and head for the marketplace like the tourists we are. It is a busy strip of tents and storefronts that

display all kinds of meats (raw and cooked), fresh vegetables, fabrics, CDs, and other trinkets. I smile, my eyes brim with tears. I look around and I see Jamaica Avenue (Queens), I smell Flatbush Ave (Brooklyn)...all the familiar sights and aromas of multi-colored prints, spicy foods, oils and incense. I am at home abroad. I watch the salespeople clocking us. They receive us casually without beckoning us to buy their goods. I' m relieved. I don't want to be treated like an American until I'm ready. I am somewhat proud of my desire just to sort of blend in.

Along the footbridge most of the vendors have their wares laid out on small tables or mats on the ground. When I stop at a display of dried roots and assorted bottles, Linda, David's buddy, tells me these are medicinal herbs and potions. He describes the use of this leaf or that drink in detail. One root that resembles a string-covered potato is widely used as an immune booster. He speaks about the growing trend of combining Western and traditional therapies in treating HIV disease. I am reminded of how Americans, including many of us black folk, dismiss African healing and belief systems as superstition or even devil-worship.

On the next leg of the tour, we visit a residential area that has another vendor site. As soon as we pull out of the bus, I am called out. "Hello, my American friend!," one announces. The other, quite a handsome one, flashes a wide grin."Such a good-looking American brother, come let me show you what I've got here." Of course, I oblige. As I head toward the charmer, others try to call me over to their tables. This pointed attention brings an unexpected rush. I remind myself, it's not about me, it's about that American dollar but it still feels both exciting and perverse. In the span of half an hour, I felt transformed from everyday brotherman in a strange homeland to...an American. I work in the non-profit sector so it's not like I have major cash flow. But I am an American here and that identity carries it's own set of features including elevated status and privilege. I felt my nationality overriding any vestigial blood ties or kinship between me and these entrepreneurial brothers. Meanwhile the charmer suggests that I come back on my own and he could set me up to stay with someone for a few days, take me to some parties and learn more about Soweto. Was he (a)just being friendly, (b)tempting me to spend more money, (c) tempting me, period, (d) (b)and (c) , or (e)all of the above? I didn't return so I may never know.

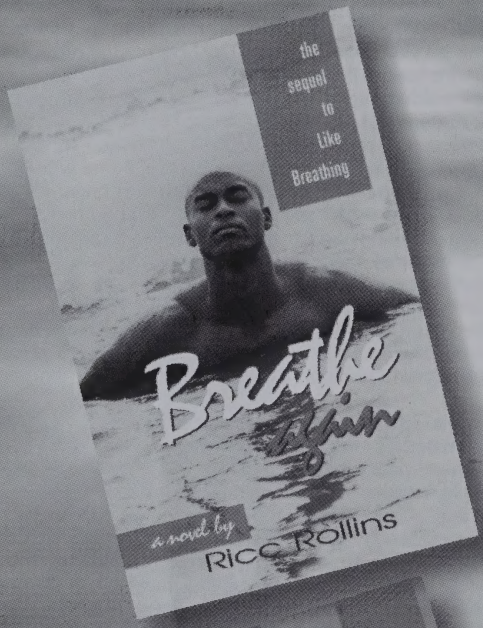
We zipped over to another tent across the street which had some great tees and sweatshirts, books and videos. Just above my head was a T-shirt bearing a startling picture of a young man carrying a lifeless boy in his arms with a young girl walking alongside him. I'd first seen this photo in a Jet magazine some 20 years ago. Like the TV shots of civil rights workers being fire hosed, this was one of the defining images of the anti-apartheid movement. It disturbed me so, yet I kept coming back to stare at it. The vendor, a large women with a severe limp, noticed my fascination with it. "You see that shirt there." I turned and she was looking right at me. "The one who is carrying the boy is my son." She turned to her younger assistant and said, "and this is that girl in the picture." I couldn't think of anything to say that would make sense in this moment so I just nodded to both of them. Just as I thought to ask what had become of her son, she told me that he was a well-known activist and had disappeared a year after the photo was taken. I held her hand and said "Thank you, bless you." She said, "Thank you brother." All I could think of was the Ruby Dee character name, "Mother-Sister", 'cause that's how I felt her.

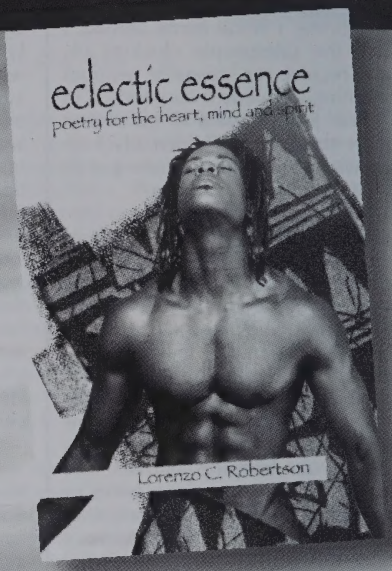
On our way to the Mandela home, we move through streets animated by children at play who smile and wave us by. The homes we pass range from very small ones (like American "shotgun" houses) to midsize 2-storied houses with tall iron or ceramic enclosures. David and Linda tell us that the larger homes are owned by celebrities. By most American standards they are modest. In a country where black people are disproportionately hit with unemployment, povery and illiteracy, these residents are doing quite well. The former Mandela home is like this. Our guide greeted because with an engaging lecture about the house and the restrictions used to discourage blacks from owning homes. Black applicants were excessively scrutinized and the few who were "approved " often waited 20 or 30 years on some mysterious "waiting list". Only because Mandela had certain connections as a young man was the couple able to secure this one. He pointed out the bullet holes that peppered the brick facade built to shield it's now world famous inhabitants from such attacks. He spoke of the many times the police and others would fire at Winnie or try to poison her fierce guard dog. Under constant surveillance, Winnie, like her neighbors, could not entertain guests or they'd be accused of plotting against the state. For many years this was a wartime village, one which in turn bred some of the most effective and sophisticated revolutionary workers in the world. Buffalo soldiers in their own land.

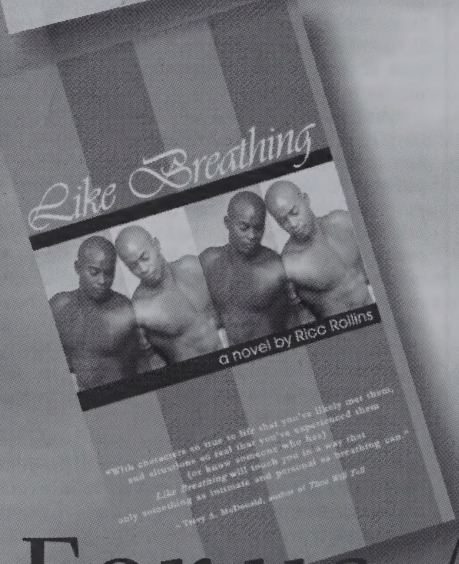
After the Mandela home tour ended, I chatted with the guide some more. When he spoke of Soweto now he smiled. He stated that people here really do look out for one another and gave examples of a high spirit of communion between neighbors. I was glad to hear any accounts of black folks in South Africa pulling together and enjoying their lives in the land that is their birthright.

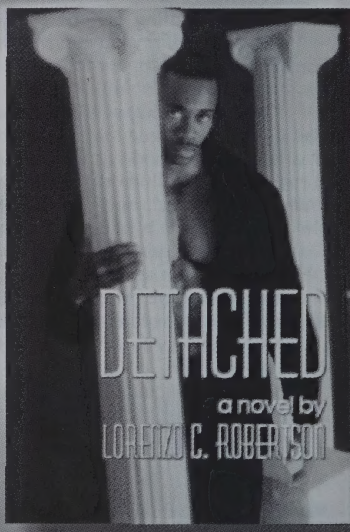
PART 1 OF A 3-PART SERIES

For your read









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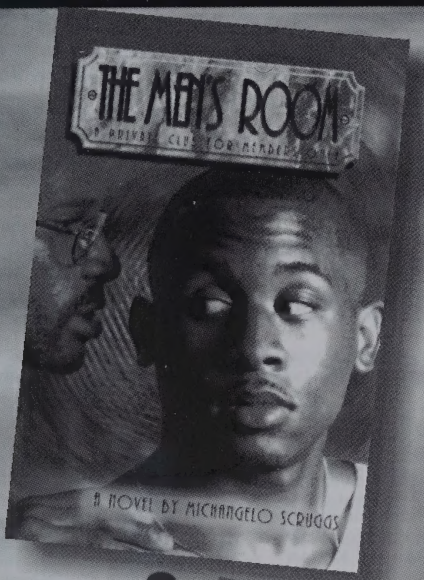

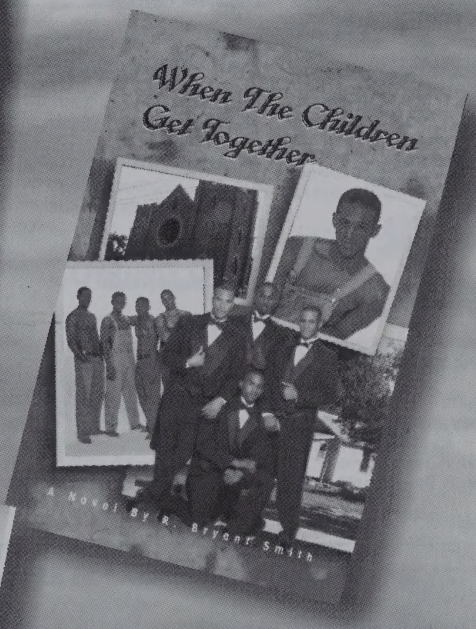

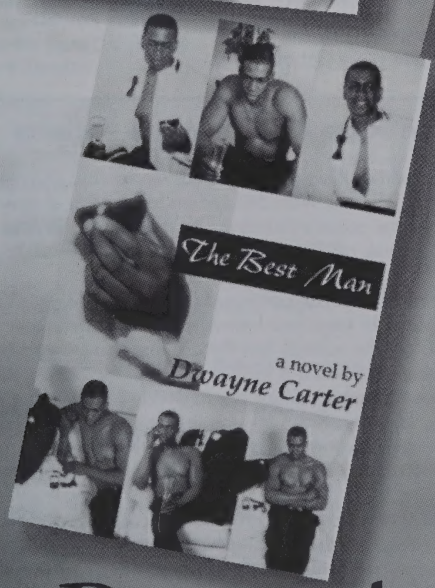

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book reviews

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Just Above My Head
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Becky Birtha

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The End of Innocence:....
Alaric Wendell Blair

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Randy Boyd

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Sharon Bridgforth

Parable of Talents
Octavia Butler

The Best Man
Dwayne Carter

What Looks Like Crazy
Pearl Cleage

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The Store of a Million Items
Michelle Cliff

Blackbird
Captain Swing
Eight Days a Week
Tangled Up in Blue
Larry Duplechan

Skin Deep\
Black Butterflies
John Gordon

2nd Time Around
B-Bo Blues
Back 2 Back
If Only for One Nite
James Earl Hardy

And This Too Shall Pass
Invisible Life
Just As I Am
Abide With Me
E. Lynn Harris

Langston Hughes' Short Stories
Return of Simple
Not So Simple
Langston Hughes

Considering Venus
D. Giselle Isaac

Walking Through Mirrors
Brian Keith Jackson

The Harris Men
R. Johnson

Let the Dead Bury Their Dead
Putting on the Ritz
A Visitation of Spirits
Randall Kenan

Waiting to Exhale
How Stella Got Her Groove Back
Terri McMillan

Beloved
The Bluest Eye
Jazz
Paradise
Tony Morrison

Getting Off Clean
Timothy Murphy

3 the Hard Way
Back In The Day
Deardia Nesbitt

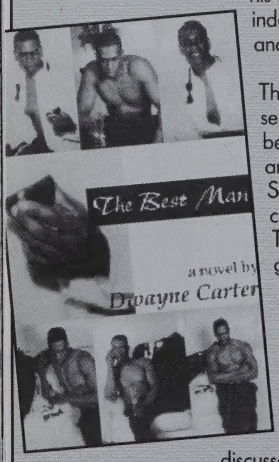
We Came All the Way from Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?
Achy Obejas

Latin Satins
Terri de la Pena

Tha Gathering of Small Bones
Patricia Powell

Atlanta Author to Sign Novel at Shrine of the Black Madonna - Atlanta

Atlanta,GA- The Best Man (Ishai Books, $14-) by Atlanta native, Dwayne Carter has readers buzzing about his debut novel. Released in May, The Best Man debuted on top ten lists of several independent book stores around the country including OutWrite Books in Atlanta and is winning rave reviews from web readers @ Amazon.com.



The Best Man chronicles the friendship of two best friends who may have gone their separate ways, but have managed to keep their friendship in tact. Often times the best man's job begins years before the nuptials; he's the one that you grow up with and love like a brother and that's the way it is for Rick Stanley and Tony Brooks. So when Tony asks Rick to be his best man, Rick has to decide if he will be forth coming with Tony about his sexuality. Rick's lover Rahsaan warns that inviting Tony into their home without letting him know up front that they are partners is going to be like mixing oil and water.

With the commercial success of African-American authors, a receptive and eager audience awaits new and exciting novels exploring the lives of African-American through fiction. The Best Man was written with the universal theme of friendship and unconditional love, but from a black man's perspective.

Readers will have the opportunity to meet Dwayne Carter as he reads from and discusses The Best Man at The Shrine of the Black Madonna located at 946 Ralph David Abernathy Street, November 9, 1999, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This Book Can Also Be Found At Outwrite Bookstore in Atlanta - 991 Piedmont

Flipping
Ricardo Ramos

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Nina Revoyr

Detached
Lorenzo Robertson

Like Breathing
Ricc Rollins

Push
Sapphire

Gym Rats
Eric Saunders

Traitor to the Race
Darieck Scott

Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice
Coffee Will Make You Black
I Left My Back Door Open
April Sinclair

The Color Purple
The Temple of My Family
By the Light of My Father's Smile
Alice Walker

Anger is What I Do Best
Roger T. Ward

To Mardi Gras With Love
K. Rhydell Watson

Gingersnaps
Delorys Welch-Tyson

Words in the Wind
Demon L. A. Woods

Autobiography of a Family Photo
Jaqueline Woodson

Big Mama Stories
Soul Kiss
Shay Youngblood

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The Women
Hilton Als

Baldwin,Collected Essays
Nobody Knows My Name
James Baldwin

Flat-Footed Truths
Patricia Bell Scott

One More River to Cross
Keith Boykin

Forty-three Septembers
Jewell Gomez

Black Looks, Race and Representations
Bell Hooks

Boy-Wives and Female-Husbands, Studies of African Homosexualities
Stephen O'Murray

The Truth That Never Hurts
Barbara Smith

Anything We Love Can be Saved
Alice Walker

ANTHOLOGY

In the Life
Joseph Beam

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Respecting the Soul
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In the Meantime
Oneday My Soul Just Opened Up
Tapping the Power Within
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POETRY

A Brave and Startling Truth
I Shall Not Be Moved
Oh Pray My Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Web
Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water
On the Pulse of Morning
Phenomenal Woman
Poems by Maya Angelou
Maya Angelou

I'm Off to See the Goddamn Wizard
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My House
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A Woman's Mourning Song
Bell Hooks

Lyric
G. Winston James

The Black Unicorn
One Dead Behind Us
Coal
Andre Lorde

From the Devotions
Cortege
Carl Phillips

Wishing for Wings
Spells of a Voodoo Doll
Assotto Saint

Close to Death
Patricia Smith

Milking the Black Bull
11 Gay Black Poets

Phoenix Rising
Vega

MEMOIRS

All God's Chillun Got Travelin' Shoes
Even the Stars Look Lonesome
The Heart of a Woman
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Singin'and Swingin'
Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey .....
Maya Angelou

The Evidence of Things I've Seen
The Fire Next Time
Notes of a Native Son
James Baldwin

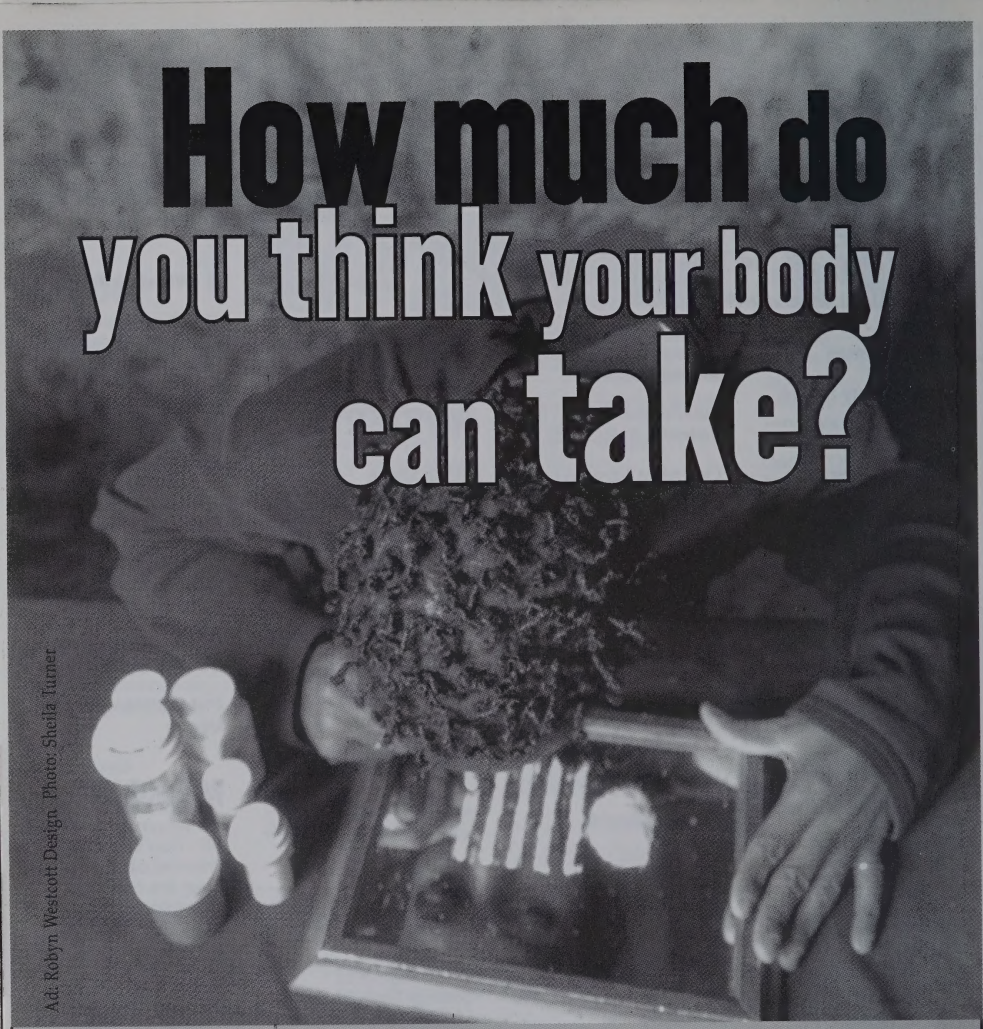
End of Innocence
Alaric Wendell Blair

Black Lesbian in White America
Anita Cornwell

Bone Black
Wounds of Passion
Bell Hooks

My Brother
Jamaica Kincaid

Walking in the Wind
John Lewis



Ad: Robyn Westcott Design Photo: Sheila Turner

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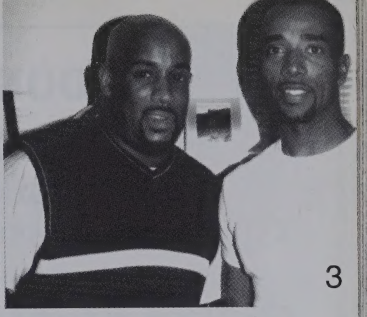
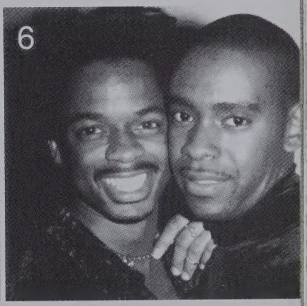


Strongarm's Indeed

DETROIT – These brothers party so hard that they couldn't fit it all into one night. Strongarm Productions, one of Detroit's premiere private social organizations (and there are several -- think Billionaires' Boy's Club and their fabulous anniversary parties) threw a three-day weekend full of events and dropped the bomb diggity on the Motor City.

Friday was the posh pre-party, Saturday was the Aphrodisiac all-nighter at the Charles Johanson Gallery and Sunday was the wrap-up at the Parabox. And the weekend wasn't just about the party. Strongarm took time out Saturday night to recognize some of their strongest supporters.

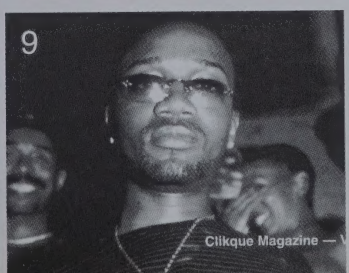


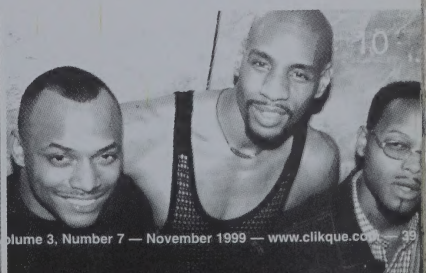
Beautiful crystal awards of recognition were presented to the Ken Collier Memorial Foundation, Detroit nightclubs Off Broadway East and Regine's Off the Park, and to Strongarm's brother groups, Fufu Entertainment from Chicago and Atlanta's own Milestone Productions.

We here at Clikque Magazine predict that this group's gonna be a STRONG presence on the party circuit for years to come!

By: Jason Michael

From lft. to rght. 1)Strongarm's Anthony played MC 2)Thomas with FuFu's Rodney & "Mother" Lisa 3)FuFu's Ron & Thayer at the Pre-party 4)Jeff from the KKMF 5)The Chairman of Chicago's FuFu Entertainment- Thayer 6)Best friends Magic & Darryl at the Pre-party 7) Strongarm gave props to Reggie of Detroit's Regines Off the Park 8)Milestone's Greg gives the Detroit crowd some ATL LUV 9)Cutie Pie with a rough LQQK 10) Strongarm's Oddis (center) with local entertainers Ron and E





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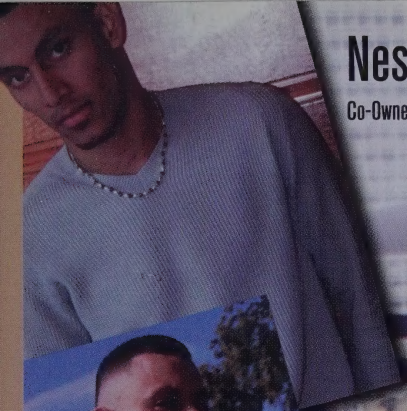
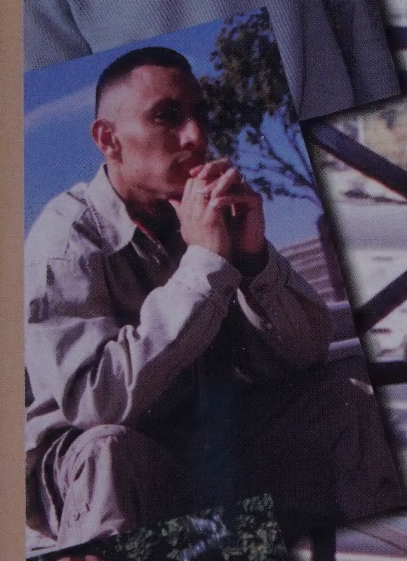
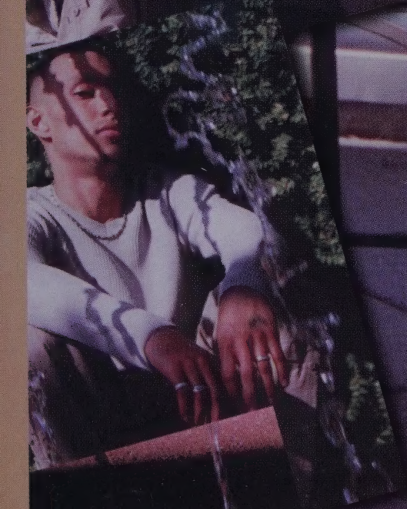
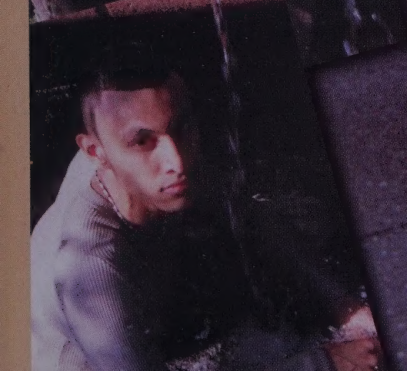








Ok guys, we have finally did it, so now you can stop emailing us to have Nestor on the cover. Yes, this month, Clikque is extremely pleased to offer you this sexy and talented young professional.

The partner of publisher, Dwight Powell, Nestor is very motivated and dedicated to making Clikque Magazine the best SGL publication being offered by a "black" company. At Clikque, among several responsibilities, Nestor runs the office of the magazine, and has the envious job of working with the individuals that are featured on our covers.

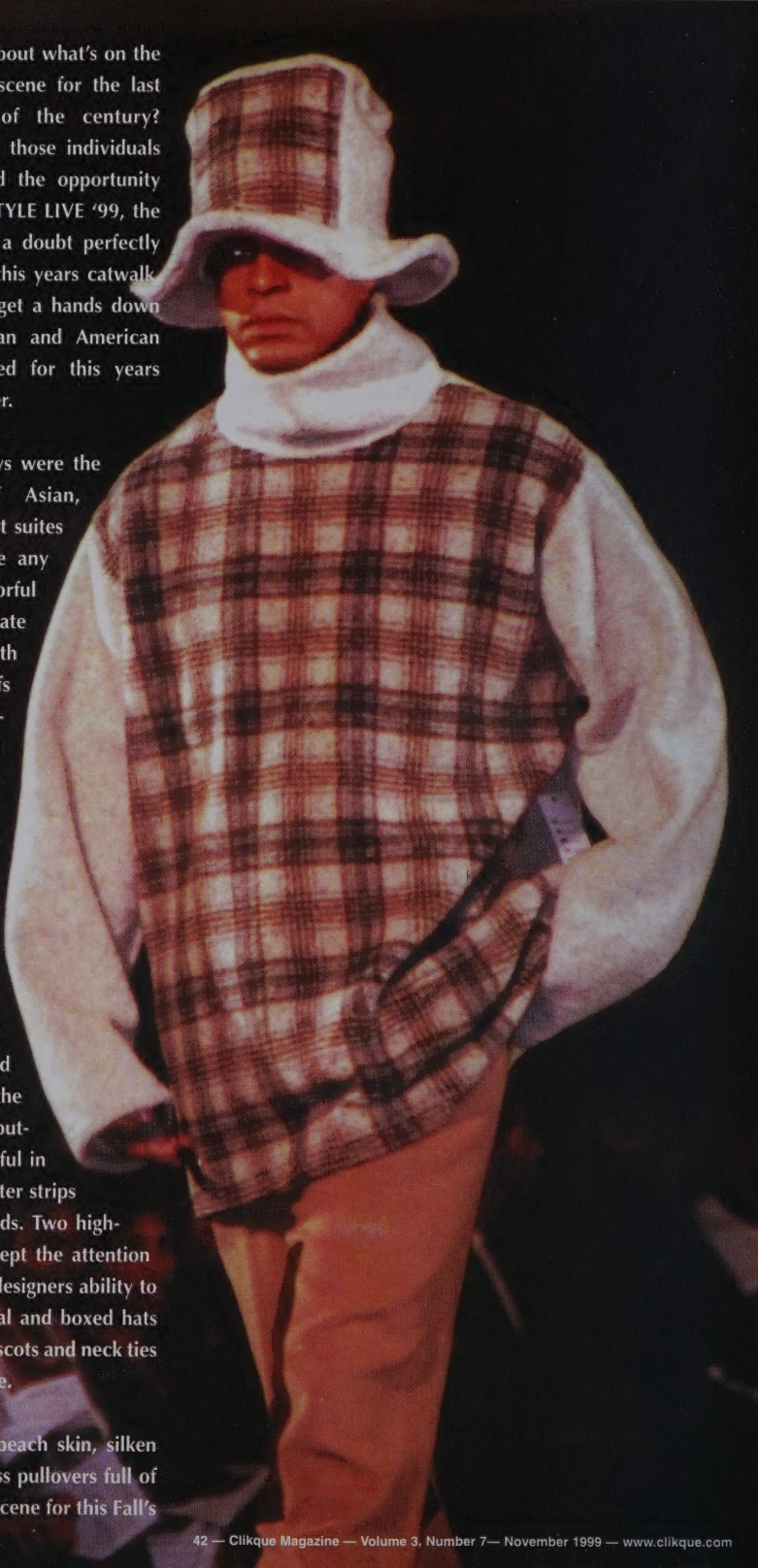
"Publishing this masterpiece each month is a very grueling and taxing process", Nestor explains. "However, seeing the community enjoying Clikque from cover to cover is rather rewarding, and that gives me the encouragement and motivation to continue to render this respectable product", he adds.

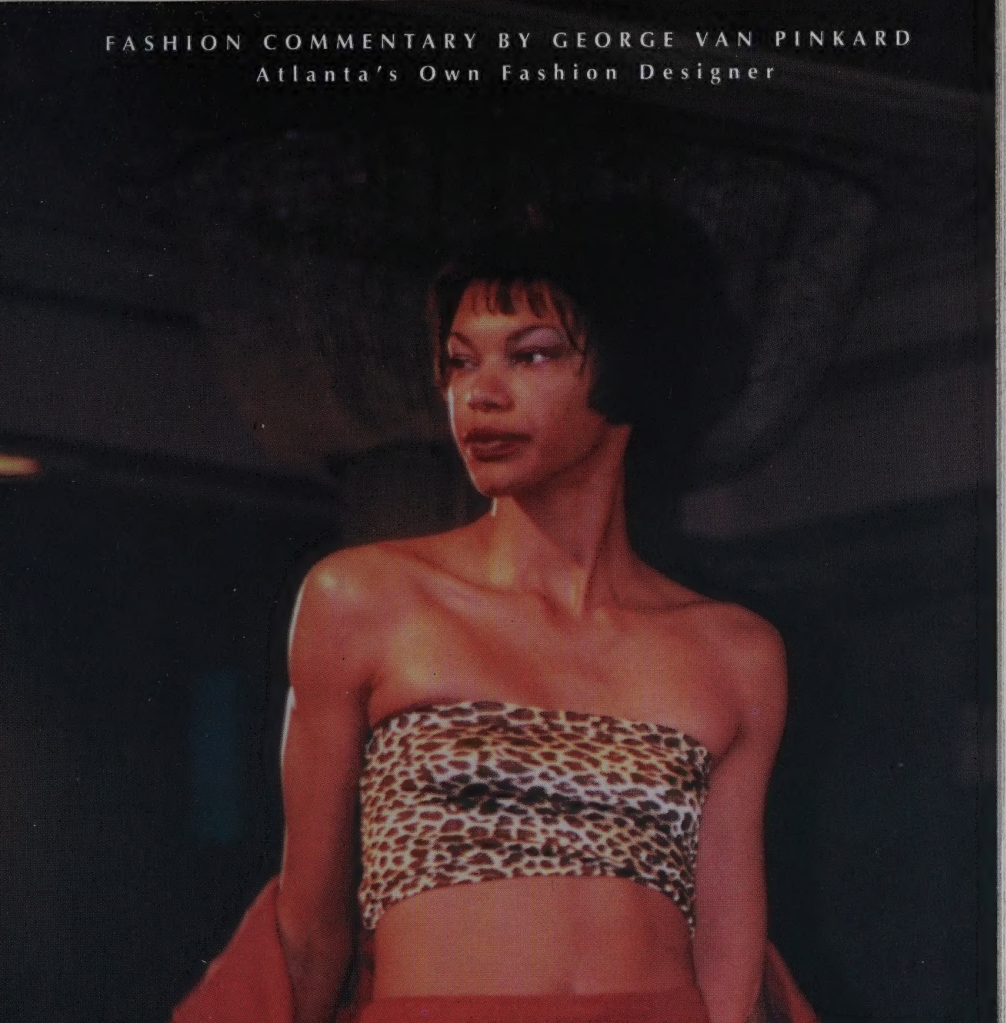
When not busy with Clikque, this 23 year old scorpio enjoys traveling, dancing, reading and listening to music.

Curious about what's on the fashion scene for the last season of the century? Well for those individuals who had the opportunity to be a Part of MANSTYLE LIVE '99, the question was without a doubt perfectly answered. Sauntering this years catwalk viewers were able to get a hands down look at what European and American designers had prepared for this years designer label consumer.

Brought to the runways were the most delectable of Asian, Persian, and French cut suites with hemlines to suite any height and taste. Flavorful turtlenecks of immaculate altitudes coincided with shirt necklines and cuffs full of ruffles and geometric angles all peered through the sleeve hemns of coordinated jackets with collars to identify with. Accelerating the look for this fall, designers used the boldness of jeweled crayola colors and egyptian metalics and trims and not to omit the numerous amounts of buttons that were purposeful in securing the three quarter strips and worsted wool blends. Two highlights that constantly kept the attention of onlookers were the designers ability to coordinate asymmetrical and boxed hats of plaids and felt with ascots and neck ties knotted beyond extreme.

Shirts of pane velvet, peach skin, silken wools and never the less pullovers full of fullness are hot on the scene for this Fall's fashion conscious male.

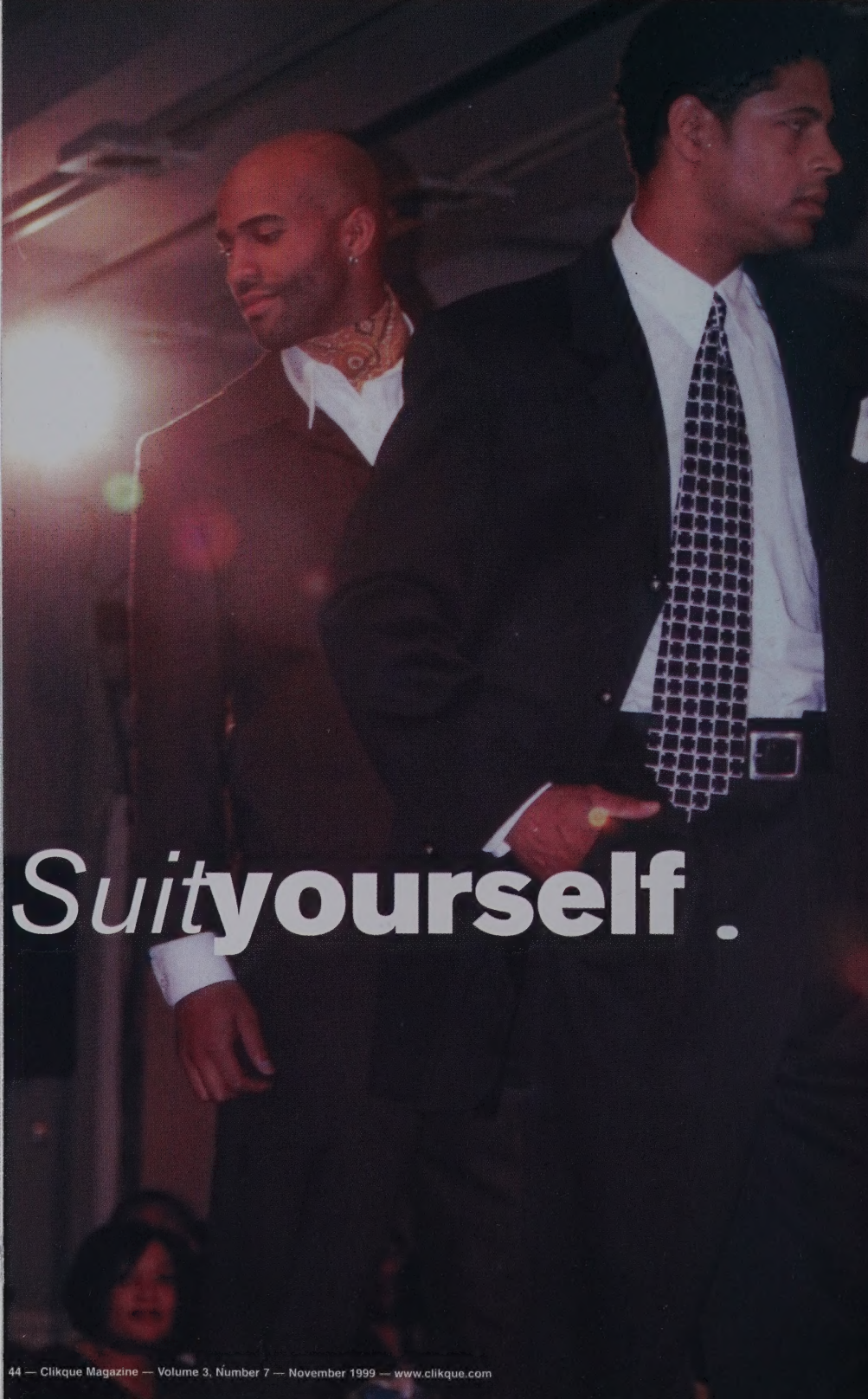




As for the woman of the 90's, you should always be in constant aware of the hemlines of jackets, dresses, pants, and skirts, particularly this Fall. MANSTYLE designers portrayed the new millennium woman by exercising the sexiest of bust tunics that need not a waist past 27. Jackets that deviated from the traditional were eluded constantly down the catwalk and coordinating bottom types were carefully selected to accentuate.

Fox and mink were very strong with full length, buttock griping sweaters, and dresses that had back outs to die for. Universal costume jewelry exemplified neck and cleavages while the roaring hats of the 50's man took an alternative route and were placed on the heads of female models that wore beckoning hairstyles and deceivable eyewear.

Each fashion designer gave an assertive outlook for this years Fall styles. As we all prepare to move into the turn of the year 2000, a new century, a new millennium, and a new era, fashion is going to and will be a vital force to our sole existence and in establishing and maintaining our very own personal identity. Hats off To producer Warren Huntley and MANSTYLE LIVE '99 !!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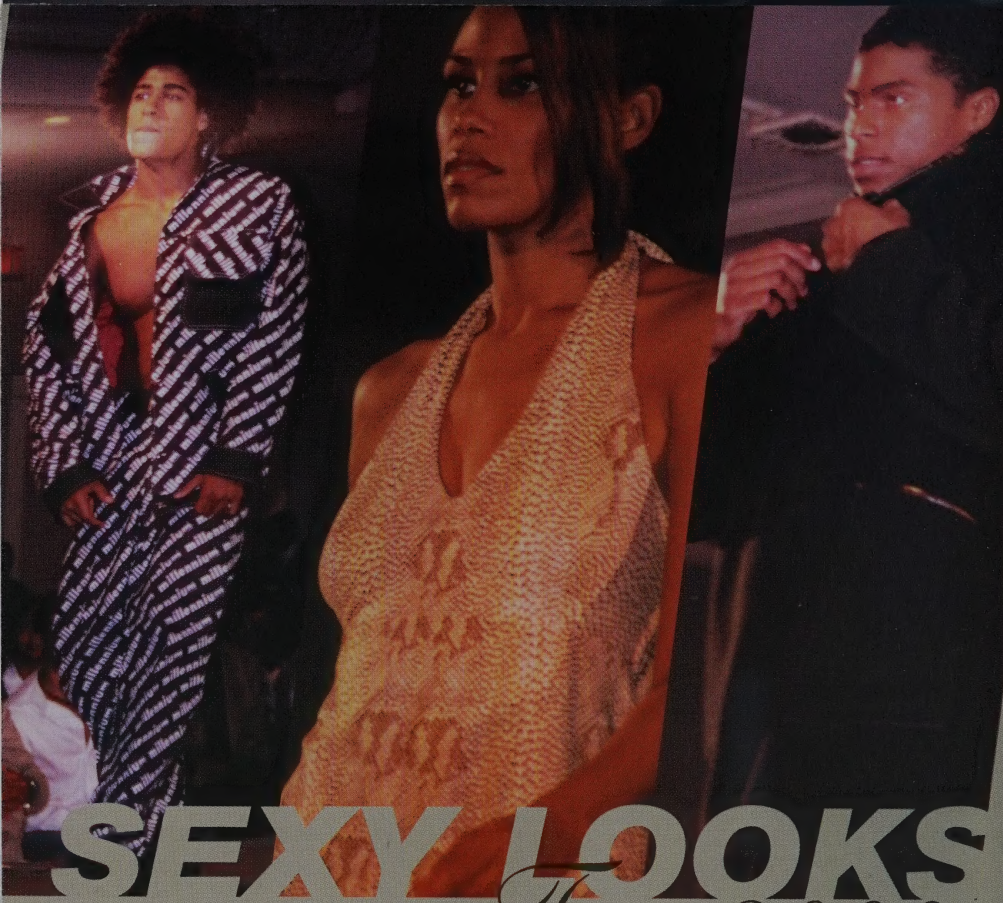
....To This Fall Season Fashions



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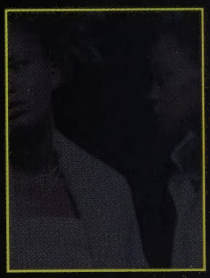

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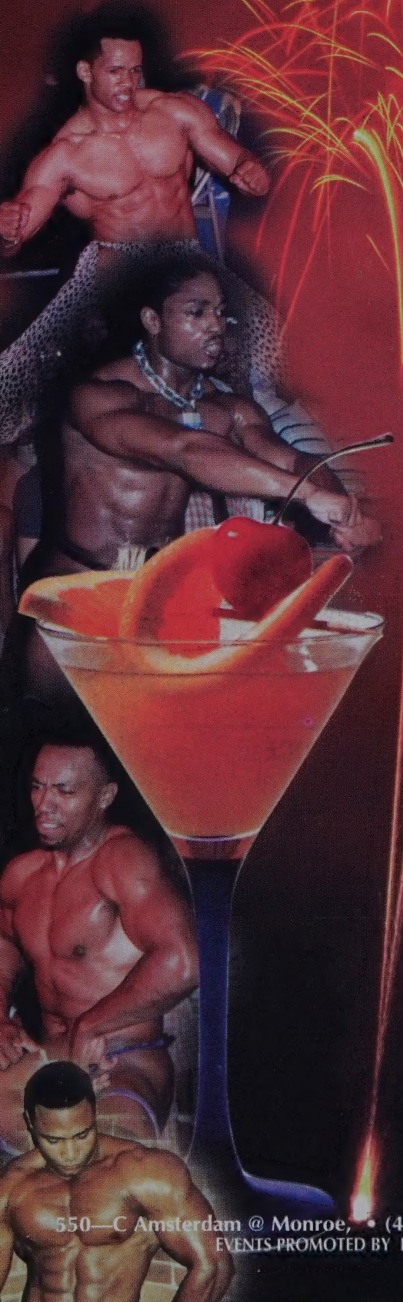
Weekend Celebration



Fusion invites you to celebrate their 2nd anniversary in Atlanta. The Celebration begins on **Thursday,Nov. 25th with** a tantalizing male review and female impersonation show hosted by Chicago's Heavy Diva, Otis Mack.

Then on **Friday, Nov. 26th**, join Reggie and his staff as they conduct a champaign toast at 2am with live go-go dancers and Resident DJ Kurt and Smash.

The weekend celebration culminates on **Sunday, Nov. 28th**, with a Fierce, Black/Latino Flesh Male Review. Come out and enjoy the men of Black Inches Magazine. Also, there will be a Birthday celebration for BGMT General Manager, Reggie Thomas.

Reggie Thomas, along with his Management team: Kurt Robinson, Martin Little, Leondra Robinson, and Darrow Johnson wishes to thank Atlanta for all of their support during the past year.

Fusion's Millennium Party

Friday, December 31st. - Host of DJs, dancers, food, and drinks. An all night - dawn affair.

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EVENTS PROMOTED BY REGGIE THOMAS AND BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER

Fusion ATLANTA Celebrates 2nd Year

Nearly two years ago Club Fusion opened it's doors promising to bring to Atlanta the hottest nightclub and dance experiences available. And as per all the touted hoopla, Fusion did not disappoint. Fusion opened with a fanfare equivalent to the emotional rush of fireworks on Independence Day! To date Club Fusion continues to offer Atlantans and visitors a supreme sleek, suave and svelte atmosphere.

Two years ago The owners of Club Fusion invited a team of Washington DC's hottest promoters the opportunity to being the DC style to Hotlanta. These men accepted the offer resulting in the birth of the Fusion experience. Over the course of time these promoters proved to be interested in more than a one-night stand, but proved themselves by becoming significant partners to the life and quality of the Atlanta community. One of the original promoters returned to DC to continue his work in other areas while Reggie Thomas, remained along with his own Miracle Network of staffers. They created what we have come to know and love as the BGMT group; promoting events for the African American community at Club Fusion several nights through out the week.

What BGMT has done is nothing short of phenomenal. It has joined the legendary ranks of Atlanta's hottest dance and club promoters – while carving out its own special niche of entertainment not soon to be duplicated anywhere in the world. From the original group has spawned successful Womyn's group (which is currently producing parties and events for Womyn throughout the metro area), launched the careers of some of the most beautiful and talented impersonators, entertainers, and Ebony Flesh known to human kind. Since making a name for itself around the country, through scandal to outrageous fortune BGMT/Fusion has risen to the top of Atlanta's night life as well as becoming major players in bringing Pride and Power to the African American LBGT community.

BGMT/Fusion wishes to thank it's staff and crew for making this STARSHIP sail smoothly into the limelight and prepare to blast off into the new millennium with all the latest and greatest music, entertainment, and dance experiences. BGMT/Fusion would like to specifically thank: Raquel Lorde- the first female impersonator at Fusion, Necole Luv Dupree, Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Revlon Lorde, Natalia Dupree, Niki Bonet, Brandi, Dominique Rashaad, and R'Darius Black. Thanks to the current and former show hosts/Emcee's: Chuck, Dominique, Harmonica Sunbeam, Maxine Blue, and Otis Mack.

A special thanks goes to the owners of Club Fusion, Paul Yates, Arthur Mann, and Robert Shelton for providing this vision and the space for success. And of course the management and staff of BGMT/Fusion, led by the very capable and talented Reggie Thomas with Martin Little (Cubby), supported by Leondra Robinson, Darrow Johnson, Eric Hunt, Eric Cabbler, and Kurt Robinson. Thanks also to the musical geniuses that spin us to heaven and back weekly, Resident DJ Manager Kurt Robinson, DJ Smash, DJ Sedric, and DJ Kevin Ford. Thanks to the bartenders, door tenders, security guards, ATL police and grounds keepers for insuring that the atmosphere would remain a wonder Fusion of B.G.M.T. (Black Gay Men Together). XXXtra special thanks to the sisters of the community who have supported and partied right along side the brothers.

And most importantly thanks to you our members, friends, patrons, and organizational partners who have made the last two years more special and successful than could have ever been imagined. We are because of who you are. We are committed to continue bringing you the very best because you deserve nothing less.

Congratulations BGMT/Fusion from Clikque Magazine

Darryl!, staff writer

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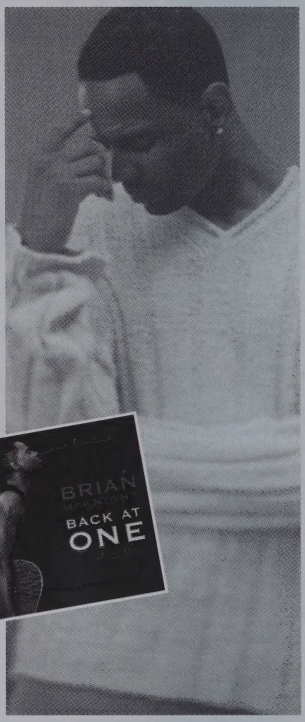
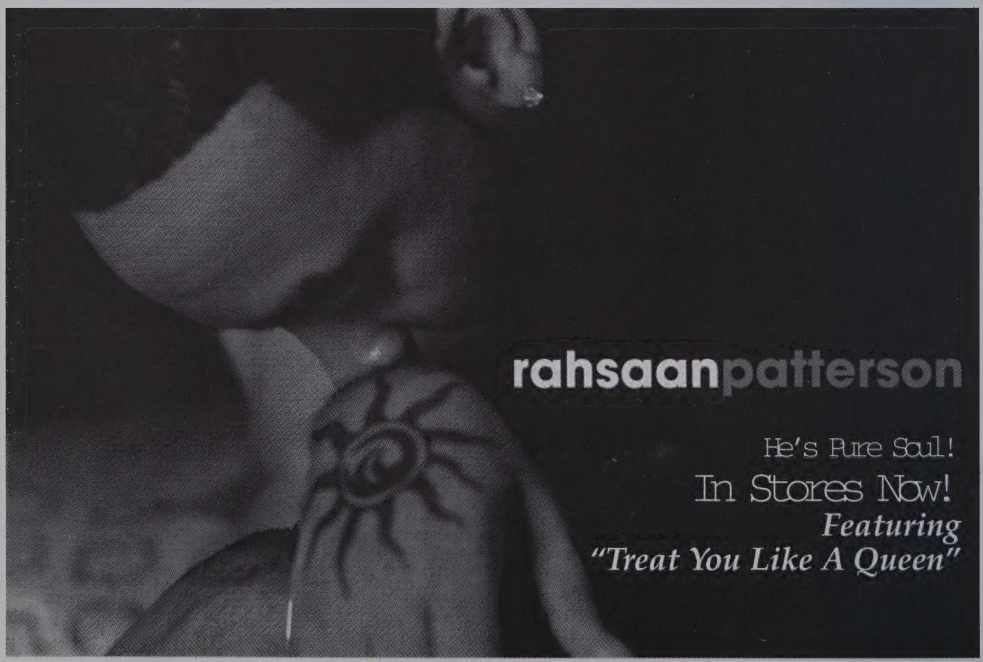
BRIAN McKNIGHT:
Shall We Begin Back At One

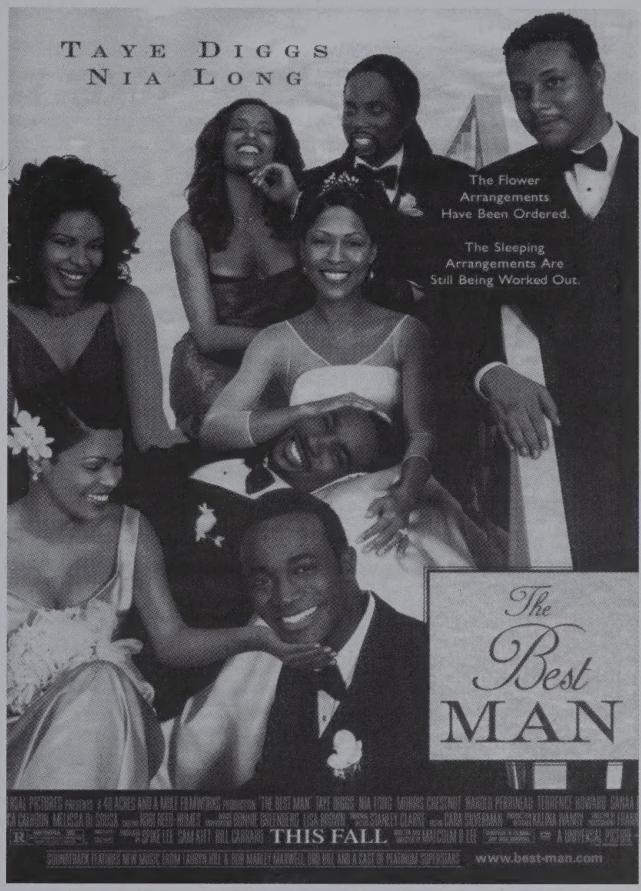


If you are going to be a groupie for someone, be a groupie for Brian McKnight. His 1997 single "Anytime" claimed the elite status of being on repeat for hours on end in my house and a couple other houses I know. In an era where real words are seldom used in lyrics, (you jiggas know what I'm saying) McKnight has the ability to pen songs which delve expertly and seductively into the romantic soul. Add on top his hyphenated abilities as singer-musician-arranger-producer, and you have an artist who is truly worthy of adulation.

The 30-year-old Buffalo, NY, native knew singing was his calling. How could he not know? Music was in his blood. He and his immediate family were members of the church choir where his grandfather was the director. He watched his older brother Claude taste the sweet notes of musical success as a member of the 7 time Grammy winning group Take 6. Brought up on gospel, Brian, the youngest of five sons, explored other genres of music. In his teens, he flexed his composition muscles by writing soft jazz and easy listening instrumentals. At 18, he further honed his talents by forming a jazz-fusion group and began performing at local venues. It wasn't until 1989 when McKnight was booted out of a Christian college in Huntsville Al, that he seriously pursued his musical dreams. Why was he kicked out, well I heard, Mr. Smooth-Honey-Dipped Vocals was giving a private performance to a girl in his room and that was against the college's ultra strict code of conduct. By the way that girl turned out to become his wife.

Call it fate, call it kismet, call it whatever, but McKnight chose to spend his new found freedom in a local studio. By the end of the summer, he had created 65 songs. After casting the net far and wide by mailing many demos, Mercury Records bit the hook. Ed Eckstine (son of Billy Eckstine) was so impressed with McKnight's sound, he signed him to a deal within two weeks. The result? McKnight's 1992 self-titled album. It spawned the break-up-remedy theme song "One Last Cry" and went on to go platinum. He also showed he had the chops to be a producer in his production work on Vanessa William's Comfort Zone. Vanessa and Brian went on to record the single "Love Is" which appeared on the Beverly Hills 90201 soundtrack and peaked at number three on the Billboard Pop Charts.





Everything about The Best Man - from the gorgeous cast to the seductive soul soundtrack - announces itself as sleek and sexy from the get-go. Handsome, dashing Harper (Taye Diggs) is on top of the world: he's got a new novel that's on the reading list for Oprah's Book Club, a chic Chicago brownstone, and an adoring, adorable caterer girlfriend Robin (Sanaa Lathan). But as much as Harper loves Robin's hot baths and gourmet shrimp dinners, he's terrified to utter the m-word. Further proof that this serial monogamist is a total commitment-phobe can be found in the title of his opus Unfinished Business, which is exactly what he'll have to attend to at a New York wedding where he'll reunite with his old college buddies.

Harper's friends are equally career-motivated and foolish in love. Jordan (Nia Long), is a workaholic Black Entertainment Television producer who doesn't have time for a relationship (though she could easily scrounge up one hot night for Harper to finally consummate an old flirtation). Murch (Harold Perrineau) is a sensitive social worker who's completely whipped by his snobbish girlfriend Shelby (Melissa De Sousa). Even the wedding couple has issues: pro football player Lance (Morris Chestnut) has to renounce his days as a "playah" for his trusting bride (Monica Calhoun). Finally, there's Quentin (Terrence Howard), a trash-talking, instigating rogue who changes sides as quickly as he changes jobs. He lives for a good tussle, and with an advance copy of Harper's tell-all book under his arm, he'll get exactly what he wants: something old, something new, something black, and something blue.

Writer- director Malcolm D. Lee doesn't have the political fervor of his cousin Spike Lee, who produced The Best Man; actually, this escapist entertainment plays more like a breezy cross between Four Weddings and a Funeral and Diner. Along with Love Jones, The Best Man also ushers in a new sub-genre of sophisticated, character-driven black dramedies that are a far cry from gangsploitation and are pitched to a younger, sharper demographic than the Terry McMillian soapers (Waiting to Exhale, How Stella Got Her Groove Back). Lee doesn't offer any startling insight into the battle of the sexes. As always, men are marriage-shy dogs who learn to change; with a handful of big laughs and a highly charismatic cast that knows how to put them over.

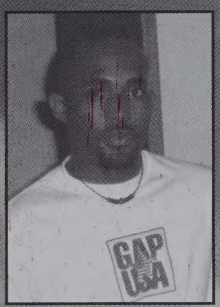
In the title role, Taye Diggs (How Stella Got Her Groove Back, Go) is a suave, likable presence as usual, and he's got great chemistry with the marvelous, underrated Nia Long. (Check out their cute lip synch to Stevie Wonder's lilting classic "As.") But as Harper mends his doubting ways, Diggs never gets underneath the surface of his smooth character and the performance ceases to hold our interest. Luckily, he's the only weak link in the cast. The hunky Chestnut perfectly captures Lance as a hypocritical but tender-headed big lug; Melissa De Sousa relishes every bit of her role as the bitchy one; and, best of all, Terrence Howard prowls through his scenes with slyly funny line readings. His Quentin is an irresistible rake, and this is a sneaky, star-making performance. By the film's end everything is wrapped up as nice and tight as a wedding present, but it's a swell surprise to find that the film's real best man is an unexpected choice.

ENTERTAINMENT

Door "655"

by Queshan Hayes

Part V



Hey old fans and new fans. Thanks for the support. Here is yet another hot issue. Ok, last month you finally met Cicely. She walked in on William and Craig in a friendly embrace. She calls Craig the F-word. Yep a faggot. But she makes a terrible mistake and calls William a faggot. And to put it lightly, she was asked to leave. The story opens here with Cicely's face cracked.

Cicely looked at William and gasped. She couldn't believe that William was turning down the best piece of woman he had ever had, so he told her after one of their nights of passion. Cicely would not be rejected, however. Her expression immediately changed from anger into one of pity.

"I'm sorry baby. I didn't mean it," she wined as she moved closer to him. "I just saw you and...and...him...and...I just got jealous and...."

"Jealous?!! Jealous?!! What the fuck you got to be jealous about?" William interjected. "That punk was upset about some shit and I was being cool and shit."

"I know baby, I know."

"Shit,I ain't no heartless motherfucker,"

"I know baby, I know," pouted Cicely as she wrapped her arms around William and caressed his broad, manly, chest. William was still in his own angry world. Cicely leaned closer to him and felt his heart racing against the side of her face. Just as she was getting comfortable, she was suddenly jerked up and away from him. He pushed her back and firmly held her by her shoulders. He looked her in her eyes.

"Don't you ever call me a fucking faggot again! Do you hear me?"

"Umm...yeah. I hear you William. I hear you! You're hurting my arms..." she mumbled as her eyes became wild with fear and shock.

"Oh..um..I'm sorry," he said as he loosened his grip. "I just wanted to make sure you understood me."

"I..I..I understand," she said, her heart now racing. She didn't understand why he was getting so upset. She just said it because she was just jealous. Was there truly something behind the scene she had just witnessed? She decided to put it out of her mind and go with her original agenda—to get William butt naked, taste every inch of him, then ride him until he exploded. She looked up into his eyes, pressed herself closer to him, and whispered in his ear.

"Hey baby, I'm sorry. So..So..sorry. Can you forgive me?" she pouted like a child. At first William still had a far off look in his eyes. But he soon came back to reality and remembered his purpose. He slowly lifted his arms and loosely

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

wrapped them around Cicely. He felt every curve. Her breast pressed against his manly chest as she let out a sigh of pleasure. William leaned his head down, pressed his sexy lips against hers and immediately put his tongue deep into her mouth. William could really work his tongue. Their tongues rolled around until William's dick began to rise and press against Cicely's upper thigh. She felt this and her own nipples began to harden. William's hands moved down her back and teased her as they stopped at that crucial point where her ass meets her back. Lingering there for just a second, his hands then made their way to her ass. He first caressed each cheek with both hands softly. Then as his tongue went deeper, he grabbed her roughly and pulled her so close to him that she felt every inch of his dick. He slowly sqautted and ground his manhood into her thighs. Soon, his hands were everywhere. Up and down her back, running through her hair, back to her ass, where they stayed. She withdrew from his mouth and made her way to his neck. She licked and sucked and her hands also began to explore William's body. Feeling each muscular, solid part of William, her arousal became intense. She was so anxious that she went straight for that muscular ass. She could have died at that one moment. She loved to feel William's manly, muscular, chocolate ass. She felt that he wore no underwear. Free-balling is what he called it. Her hands tensed as she tried to fill each palm with William's ass cheeks. It was solid. She went lower and cupped each cheek as William grinded himself deeper into her body. She was in exctasy as she felt him tense up into a solid mass of sexual man. In a matter of minutes they were both naked. Their bodies pressed together, their heads locked by their tongue play. William lifted Cicely off her feet. She straddled his waist as he carried her to the bedroom. It smelled of vanilla. His two candles that he lit earlier projected sexual shadows on his walls.

"Damn baby," William moaned. "It's been a long time...You taste so good," he said in between kisses. Now, beside the bed, he laid Cicely down lightly. He licked her from head to toe, stopping in all the right places. He was ready. She was ready. He reached over and pulled out a condom as his free hand massaged her nipples. With one leg on the bed and one foot on the floor, he rolled the condom on. Just the touch of his own hand made him precome, just a little. He stroked his huge dick just three times before he went to action. First in slow smooth thrusts he went in and out. Cicely moaned and groaned.

"Oh William..yeah baby..I like that.." she said. William interlocked his fingers with hers and flattened her outstretched arms against the bed. His slow, smooth strokes evolved into hard, animalistic thrusts.

"Yeah, girl...You like that...Yeah, you like that right there," he moaned as he went in and out, in and out, in and out. Faster and harder.

"Shit! Shit! Ohhhh Shit!," he yelled as he fucked the hell out of Cicely. She was moaning louder, on the edge of orgasm. Then, all of a sudden William reached his point.

"Damn Cicely. Damn!" he said as his body shook and jerked. Meanwhile, upstairs, Craig sat there by the wall. He had heard the familiar head board banging and wanted to confirm his thoughts. Yes, William and that bitch were fucking. As he heard what he gathered was William's orgasm, he took his ear from the wall. Staring into space, a single tear rolled down his cheek. His heart grew heavy as he pictured William with...with..her! He saw them. He saw her. His tear was followed by others.

"Why are you doing this to me God? Why?" he cried as he beat his chest. Yet, he realized he was doing it to himself. He cried a few more tears, then wiped them away. He picked himself up and climbed into bed. He looked up at his ceiling as he pulled his covers up and over his chest.

"Forgive me, Lord." And he was off to sleep.

****

William laid there, out of breath. Cicely laid there beside him numb and confused. The sex was good, but he had never fucked her like that before. He was an animal, she thought to herself. What was behind all of that tension? William just stared up at the ceiling.

"William?...William?" Cicely called. He still laid there looking at the ceiling. Cicely raised up and looked him in the eye. "William?!"

"Yeah...what...what..?" he said finally snapping out of his trance.

"I've gotta go. I can't spend the night,"

"Yeah..ok..whatever."

"WHATEVER!?!?, Whatever?! What do you mean 'Whatever'?"

"You said you had to go. So go. I can't stop you."

"Nigga, you are really trippin"' she said as she got up. She put on her shoes, went into the living room, wrapped herself in her trench coat and was gone. She slammed the door.

"Dumb bitch," William mumbled. He turned over and looked at his phone. No matter how much he had sex, he still felt Craig's pain. But he couldn't call him. He wouldn't.
****

Craig's apartment was silent. Suddenly, the silence was broken. His phone rang. Once it rang. Twice it rang. It rang a third time.

"Shit!, who in the fuck," he grumbled as he reached for the phone.

"Oh no, not again," he said to himself as he rolled over and decided not to answer it. It rang one last time and his answering machine picked up. On his phone was the sexiest voice that he had ever heard. It made his heart skip a beat and his dick twitch.

"Hey Craig...It's me Tony..Just calling to say...that..I ...umm was thinking about you and wanted to come over tonite and see you. So when you get this message, give me a buzz." And he was gone. Did Craig's ears deceive him? Was that really Tony?

clikque on erotica

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

He knew it was and so did his body. It ached for what Tony could give. He picked up the phone and Tony's number came to him as he dialed the first number. Tony picked up on the first ring.

"Hello?" Craig's throat got dry.

"..Umm Tony?"

"Yeah, is this you, sexy?"

"Yeah its me...Got your message."

"No doubt. No doubt. So I'm on my way?"

"Are you?"

"Be there in ten."

"Later," and Craig hung up the phone. He sat there frozen.

****

William got up and cleaned himself off. He took a long hot shower. As he stood there, the warm water caressed his body. He thought about everything that had happened. Then, his heart began to feel Craig's pain.

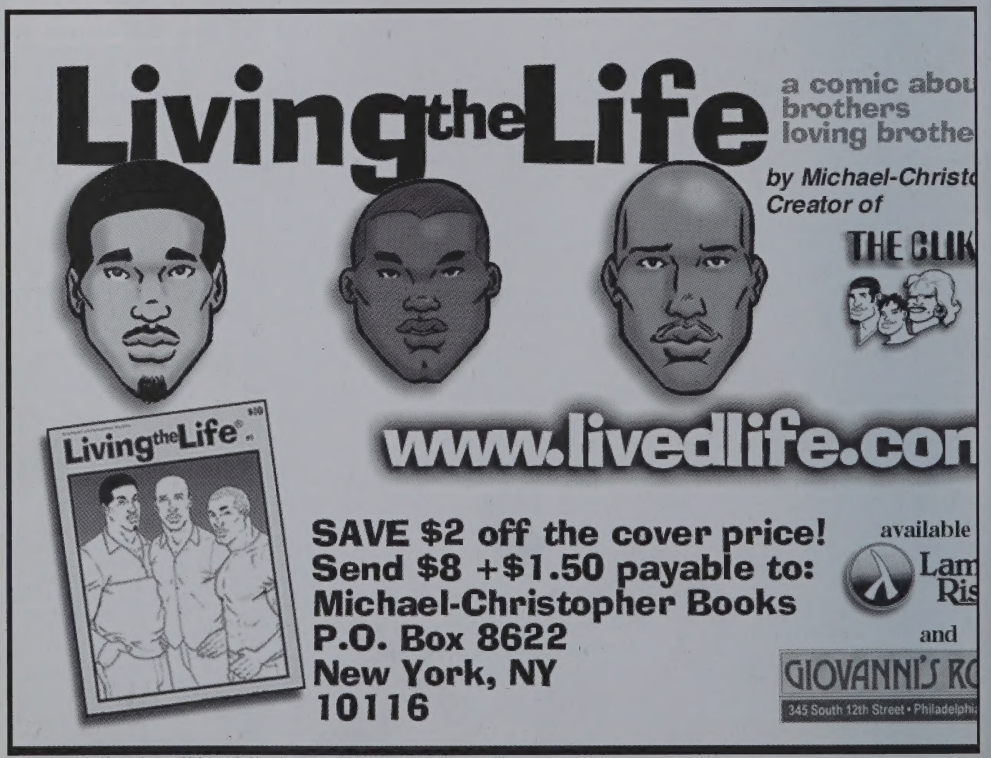
"Damn, man, I didn't mean to hurt you. Fuck that bitch. She don't know shit," he thought to himself. He turned off the water and dried himself off. He cleaned his room and turned on his CD player. The smooth, sexy voice of Maxwell filled his apartment. "Whenever, wherever, whatever" flowed through William's body as he laid across his bed in only a towel. He drifted off to sleep. What seemed like hours, was merely minutes. In a state of mid sleep, he was suddenly awakened by knocking on his door. He got up and quickly went to the door. But on his way down the hall, he realized the knocking was coming from the direction of his room. He stopped in his track and slowly walked back toward his room. The knocking was somewhat muffled, but it was steady. It stopped, but for only a second or two. Then it started again. William walked over to his wall and pressed his ear against the wall.

"Yeah baby...Yeah, that's it...Yeah...Been a long time, huh? Yeah baby, take that shit...Yeah C.C. take that shit, nigga."

"Oh Tony...yeah boy..yeah. "Shit nigga...Shit

"Yeah boy. Shit!"
William jerked his head away from the wall and slumped back.
He stood there, heart racing, eyes wide with amazement and confusion. He went to his bed, sat down, and just stared at the wall.....

To Be Continued next month.
Stay tuned.



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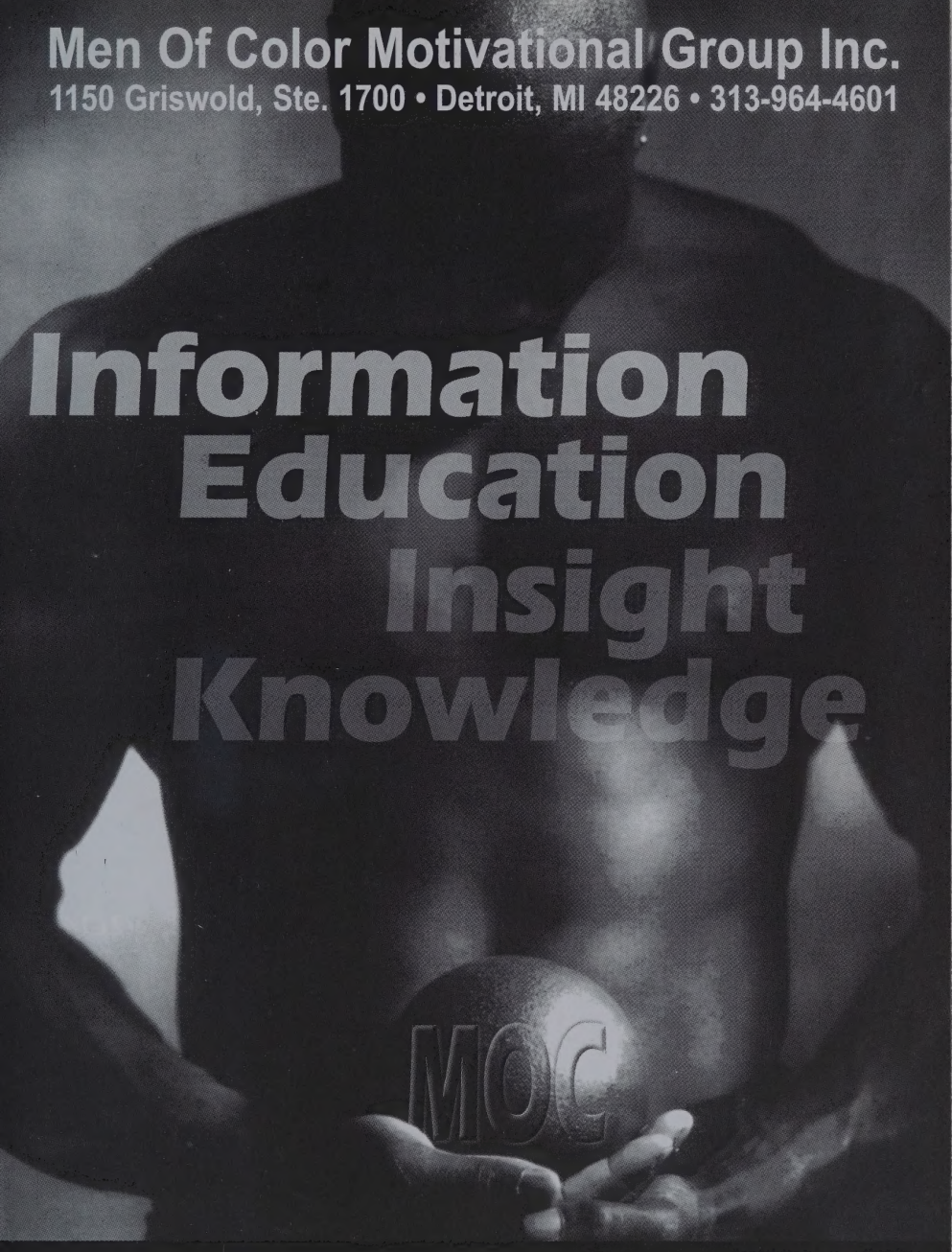
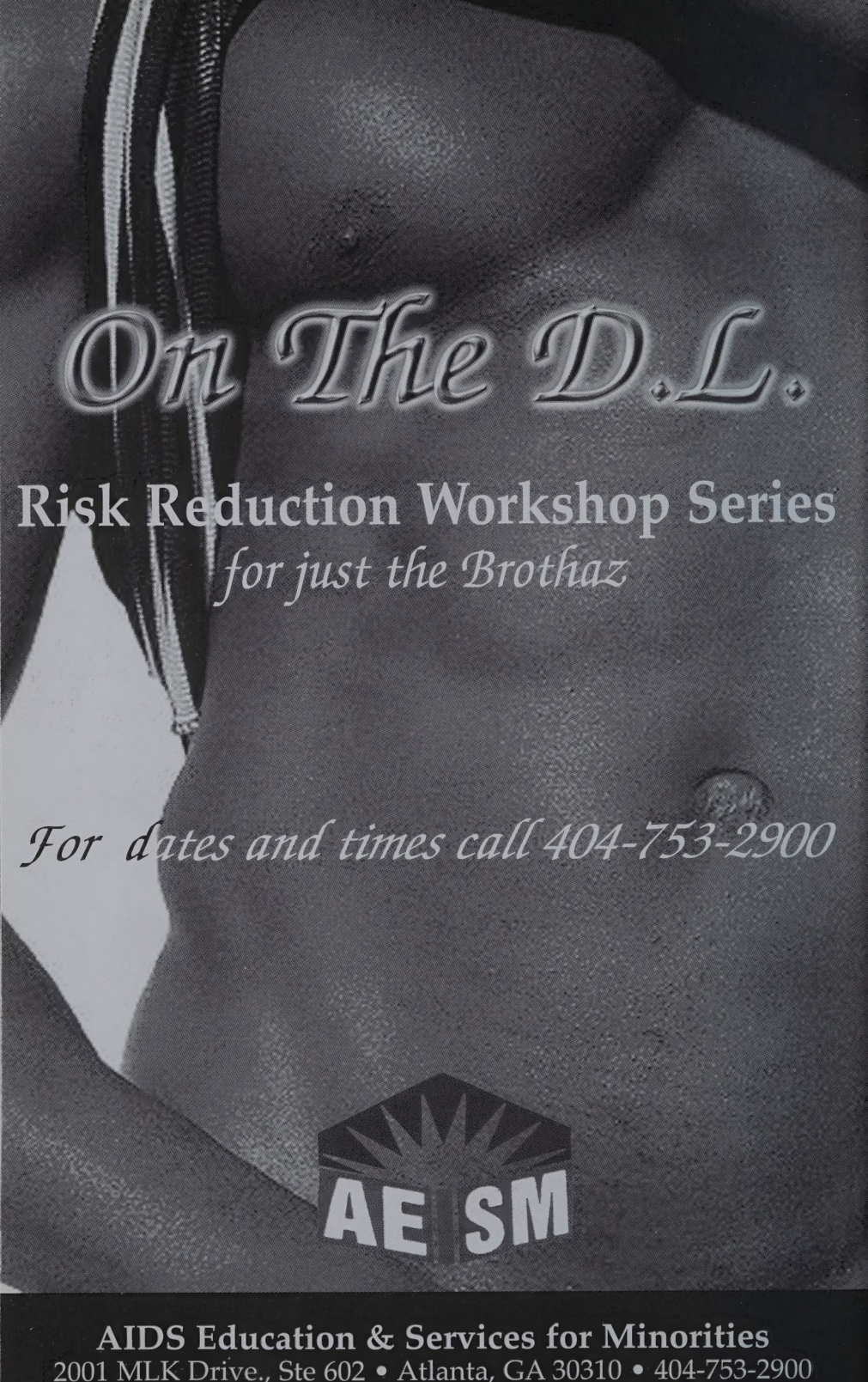


MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.



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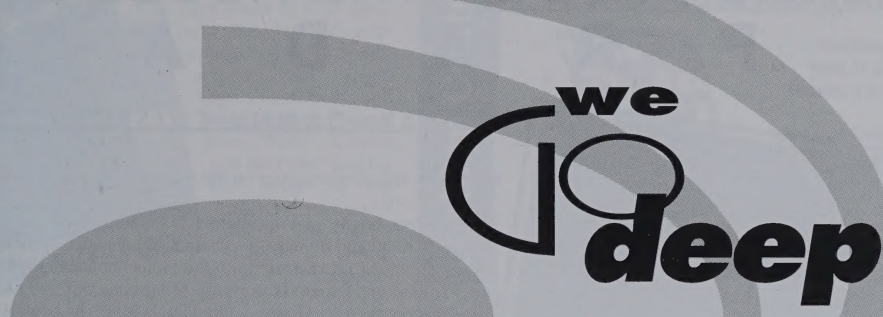

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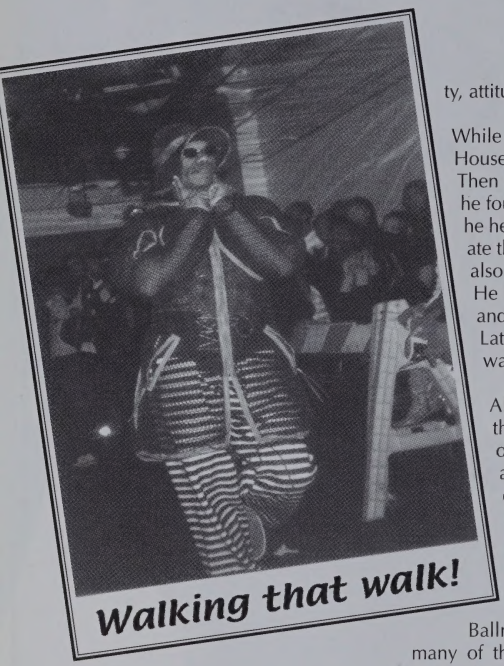
DEREK: PRIDE OF THE HOUSE OF P R A D A

BY: DANNY CHISLOM



Walking that walk!

Derek Murphy, better known in the ball community as the Legendary Derek Prada is one of the most influential and important people in recent ballroom history. He has helped form and establish some of the most well known and respected houses of the last 10 years. On top of all that, he has found time to contribute to the gay community, have a successful career and maintain a long-lasting relationship.

Derek was born and raised in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn and currently resides in Clinton Hills, Brooklyn. He first started attending balls in 1985 and walked for the first time at the LaBeija Ball in 1986. After another year, he won his first trophy for Head to Toe Overness (a label category) at Max Debujiak's Global Chic Ball. At the time he was walking as a Penda'vis. As a member of that house, he was guided, molded and inspired by the person he feels he represents when he walks today; Kim Penda'vis, who was known for his creativity, attitude and showmanship on the runway.

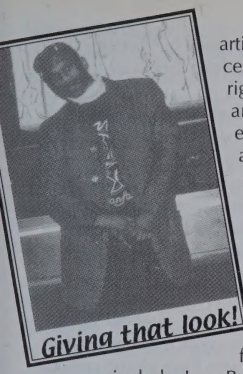
Flash-back!

While living briefly in Washington, D.C., he helped form the House of Khan and brought the Khans to New York City in 1988. Then he helped Eric Bazaar form the House of Milan. In 1989, he founded and fathered the House of Armani until 1993 when he helped create the House of Gaultier. In 1997, he helped create the House of Prada, his current and final house. Derek has also bridged the gap between the ballroom and AIDS activism. He helped the Gay Men's Health Crisis (a not for profit health and information service in New York City) form the House of Latex, who spread AIDS/HIV information while attending, walking and sponsoring an annual free ball each June.

All the while, many of Derek's friends were also members of the houses he was in and encouraged him in each endeavor so he always had their support. Support and friendship are two very important things to have and hold onto in our community as we all have lost so many friends to the AIDS epidemic. Derek feels fortunate to still be here carrying on the legacy of the legends that have passed before him. He's been through different eras of balls from when they were held at the Legendary Elk's Lodge (see "Paris is Burning"), right through to Traxx in New York to the Marc Ballroom in New York to the present when balls are held in many of the major cities across America. Having been out since before AIDS really hit the ball community, he has seen people come out after him and have died already, but has this to say on that situation, "AIDS destroyed ballroom participants, but not the ball scene. It killed legends, but the scene still continued."

The strength to carry on through such trying times is just one of the many things Derek learned from the ball scene. Another lesson is survival. "Back in the days, it wasn't easy. If you were flamboyant or in drags, you couldn't just walk out of your house, you had to change when you got to the Village or the club." Other aspects of ball life that Derek has taken to heart are how to be aggressive and creative. These two qualities, more than any of the others helped him secure a place in the occupational field of his dreams; styling.

Derek was doing hair and began doing singer Monica's hair through Steve Littles, a friend who was also Monica's stylist. Then in 1995, he styled a male underwear ad for Today's Black Woman. The shoot was filmed by Hard Copy, Derek was interviewed and a career was born. Since then he has done several magazine editorials, has groomed and styled many Latin recording



artists for crossover success (from the CD covers right down to their attire) and has worked with entrepreneur B.Smith, actress Pam Grier, singers Faith Evans and Diane Reeves, rapper Sean "Puffy" Combs and did Usher and his CD cover for the hugely successful album "My Way". Derek, whose favorite designers include Jean-Paul Gaultier, Alexander McQueen, Matsuda, Paco Rabon and all-time favorite, Issey Miyake, is currently styling the cover for Vogue Bambini (Italian Vogue for children). What makes Derek the proudest about his career is that he did it all on his own, he was never anyone's assistant.

At 31 years old, Derek will be devoting more time to his career especially after the upcoming Prada Ball. He says that we won't give up walking altogether because he loves the competition. He also loves to see the creativity that ball participant's display on the runway and how they put their heart into whatever they are doing. Something that he doesn't like, but says is changing is that a lot of ball kids either wouldn't or didn't know how to take their talents out of the ballroom scene.

Derek has certainly taken his talents to the next level without sacrificing his ballroom "roots". Derek's ambitions for the future include not just more styling, but working in the movies, researching and developing the movie's fashion sense and scenery. He is also taking up sign language and is taking steps to be more spiritual. There are many different sides to people and a lot of that is missed when you don't take the time to get to know someone. People generally think of Derek as being stuck on himself because he walks label categories or that he only associates with fashion-oriented people, but he says, "I don't live the ball scene 24 hours a day." Unfortunately there are those that are consumed by the ball world and they tend to take things too personally. "There is no more friendly rivalry and there is too much favoritism."

We at Clikque Magazine wish Derek and the House of Prada good luck and a successful turnout at the Prada Ball on November 6, 1999 being held at the Holiday Inn on 57th street in New York City. Derek wants this ball to be as big as the Mugler Ball of 1991, which he regards as one of the best balls of all time. With Derek's talents and skills and the support of all his friends in the ballroom community and beyond, there is no reason why this won't be one of the best balls ever held.

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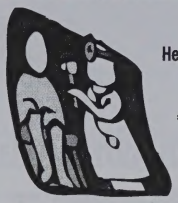

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MMPH, MMPH, MMPH!!
CORDELL, HOW MANY TIMES TO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? I'M A LESBIAN!!!
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YOU JUST NEED YOU A MAN WIT' DA RIGHT TOUCH!
I AIN'T GAY? WELL, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MY MASCULINE SIDE?

QsJoint is a premium adult subscription web site that features: Original Photography of Black Male Models; Recommendations for Gay & Gay Friendly Chicago Nightspots; Coverage of Chicago Current Events of Interest to the community

No Annoying Banner Advertisements
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CONTINUES FROM PAGE 28

ds on the sites are accompanied with generally low qual-y photos. The webmaster requires that each ad give a ame, geogr4aphic location and an e-mail address where ney can be contacted. The rest of the information in these ds is strictly up to the individual. Most commonly, how-ver, the person will list their height, weight, and their hysical characteristics. Many of the brothers who place nese ads lure readers into their space with eloquent state-nents about themselves and what they are looking for in mate. For instance, they describe their interests and hob-ies and maybe their vision of a quiet evening of enter-ainment, among other things. Most seek a caring, edu-ated, fun-loving, independent, open-minded individual etween a certain age range determined by the ad's uthor. But many people who place ads often attempt to ontrol who responds to their cyber-commercial by mak-ng it clear that they are only seeking replies from certain ndividuals. They usually end their ad with something kin to NO FATS/FEMMES/QUEENS. Or by stating they nly seek responses from people that are in shape or have tight body and act masculine and are "unclockable. By nis time I am confused. I have to ask myself, "Are these olks looking for a mate or a sex partner?" Why would the hysical statue or the demeanor of a person matter if they atisfy your interpersonal requirements? Finding a com-atible mate is hard enough without creating superfluous tandards to further reduce your chances. Who knows if ne person in the ad themselves conform to their own tandards? For that matter, they may have a 'stomach', or ave a feminine demeanor. Remember, in cyberspace not only does the consumer enjoy anonymity but the subject in the personals can be anything or anyone they want to be.

I suspect that many are placing these ads not in hopes of finding a mate but searching for new sex partners. That's why they are specific about the requirements of those who are answering their ad. I'm not saying that all people who outline a specific body type or demeanor are only out for some "backyard" and/or "pipe". But one has to wonder why is body type and demeanor so important to those who claim to be searching for companionship?

I have known people who have placed personal ads on websites. Some of them are sincere about meeting a potential mate. But I also know people who have placed personal ads on the web strictly to find sex partners. I ran across an ad that was placed by a guy that I had a brief interest in two years ago. He told me before we ceased talking that he was not gay and that he would never kiss or be intimate with a man. He just liked the company and wanted to only have intercourse with masculine bottom men. He later revealed to me that he was still married, but was separated from his wife whom he still loved. Needless to say when I saw his ad he gave the standard spiel outlined earlier. I guess that he figured out that he was gay ... or has he? Is he looking for a relationship like he says in the ad or is he looking for another willing bottom for him to "hit"? Another person I know who placed an ad told me that his only interest is sex, not a committed relationship. He doesn't say that in his ad but he does give a clue when he outlines in great detail about what his respondent should look like. In addition, this person doesn't use his real name in the ad and maintains his deceit even when he makes phone contact with the respondents. He yet maintains his anonymity even when the person flies or drives in from out of town and sleeps with him by clinging to his assumed name. Another one of my friends said everyone he knows that has answered a cyber-ad and met them in person has wound up sleeping with them. But none have ever developed a relationship beyond sex. Apparently what has happened is that a number of these ads aren't placed for finding mates or dates. They are a form of cyber-cruising for new sex partners – much like the cruising that goes on at clubs, bars, adult bookstores and outside any club during a Gay Pride weekend.

At a certain level, using your personal ad to cruise the information superhighway for sex is as acceptable as cruising at a club or bar or park. This is a moral and ethical question rather than one of individual freedom. There is nothing illegal about searching for sex partners. But buyers beware! The authors of these personal ads will not tell you that sex, instead of love and commitment, is the motive. This is true of the person placing the ad and the person who responds to the ad. Not all people who place personal or respond to ads are pretending to be something they are not. Neither am I saying that people can't meet the perfect mate on the web and fall in love. It happens to some of us. But how likely are we to find "the one" from a web page?

Even if someone is sincere about finding someone, let's consider the odds of actually finding the perfect African-American mate on the Net. First, blacks are a numerical minority in North America. We as same gender loving males (and females) are a sexual minority within a minority. Further, we as blacks do not have the same access to the Internet as other ethnic groups, erecting another barrier. In

mathematical terms we're a minority to the third power. Again, how likely is it that we are going to find our soul mate on the net? Granted, people placing personal ads are launching their information to the entire world. Their ad is reaching people and places all across the globe. This obviously increases their exposure. But until you can actually get off-line and date that person, or at least share a physical presence it won't increase your chances of finding compatible mate.

The Internet is everywhere but it has no real home or owner. It is like air. It exists, you use it, but you can't see it. Thus, it invites illusion. Don't think that because someone has access to an e-mail account and launches a personal ad that they are more genuine than the people you meet in clubs or bars or any other social gathering. Charlatans are everywhere. In fact, it is easier to be outgoing and meet someone on the Internet than it is in a club or store or on the street. In those instances one can't assume a cloak of deception as easily as they can over the Net. You can be anything you want to be on the Internet. To that end, don't expect to meet your soul mate online. In fact, you are more likely to find your soul mate by "divine accident" or in place that you are not looking than you are on a website. There is a story in the Bible about the prophet Elijah who was looking for God in several places but God was not there. He looked for God in a strong wind, but Lord was not there. He looked for God in a fire, but God was not there. The servant then looked for God in the earthquake, but he couldn't find God there either. God spoke to him softly in a place and time that Elijah was not expecting. Many of us are looking for a mate, but he or she might not come in the manner that we expecting. We want to be blown away by a wind, or have our heart set ablaze by a fire or jolted by an earthquake when Mr. or Ms. Right comes along. In today's digital era we expect Mr. Right to see an ad, click a mouse, type a response, click the send button launching a sequence of numbers and codes over a telephone or cable line to your computer to be decoded by your internet service provider's software. Once the response gets to our e-mail account we expect to log on to find that the African king we have been waiting for has responded to our ad. Or we see the perfect person in an ad and we send e-mail to them. Have you ever stopped to wonder how many others have also responded to your selection? You have no way of knowing what kind and how much competition you have. Even if you meet someone in person rather than on the Net you may still have these concerns. But you stand a better chance of getting answers to your questions in person than you do over the Internet or the telephone. Is a picture and few words enough to peek your interest when there may be potential mates that you come in contact with almost everyday that you ignore? Personal ads on websites are to be viewed with a critical eye and with a bit of healthy skepticism. The very features that make these personals convenient are also the features that make answering these ads a gamble.

How realistic is it that we will find our soulmate on the net? It's not very likely. I'm not saying that it can never happen. Even Haley's Comet appears around every 76 years. But Your next love will probably appear in the form of a smile and a, "Hello, my name is ... What's yours?" instead of, "You've Got Mail!"

Clikque MAGAZINE

poetry time

By: James Martin

Love Remembered

Tears for someone else
Forgiveness that never came
Changes in my life so strong that nothing about me is the same
My apologies fall on your death ear
The love of my life is not here
Too many mistakes made
In the lap of rejection my heart lays

Take it.....Take it

I'm born again
Reaching for love now that is deep within.....myself

I love you the same, but myself more
You are the physical love of my life
The emotional sun that warms my earth
I don't know you like I used to
I remember you as I want to
I only remember love

I can't hold or change you
I can remember you only in love

Between us words are not the same
Words are rarely even exchanged
No one wins or loses in this game
It had to happen....this unwanted change

You are with me even when I don't want you to be
You are unconditional love I thought I had
You are the love that haunts me.

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KNOW THYSELF and OTHERS

in the 21st Century"

By PHARAOH

Over the past decade I have been fortunate enough to develop a close circle of friends, which are not many in number. Because I value these individual friendships, I make it a point to send a card or a gift and make a call to say happy birthday. When I made a commitment to do this about five years ago, I noticed that the majority of my close friends and a few acquaintances had a birthday at certain times of the year. For example, during the first half of the year the majority of the birthdays were from April 26th through May 15th. Also, during the second half of the year the majority of birthdays fell between November 6th through November 16th. One other interesting thing I noticed was that a few individuals who I decided to pursue romantically had birthdays around the beginning of May through the middle of May. Two of them, who I would give it all up for, even have a birthday on the same day.

Now, I know for a fact that I am not the only one who "currently" experiences this phenomenon. A couple of my friends have experienced this as well, but in varying degrees. Before you finish reading the article, I suggest you consider making a notation, if you have not done so already, of the birthdays of your friends and the individuals who set your soul on fire. You know the ones who you would write hot checks for, draw down the savings account for, max out a credit card for, and let move in rent-free. How about the ones who can get "sum" from you anytime of day or night with no questions asked? Those are the individuals I am talking about in addition to your friends. Also, don't forget about the ones who could not resist you, even when you said, "...no, no a thousand times no!" Do you see a trend or a pattern with respect to your friends and individuals you consider to be significant others, or the ones who you desire to fulfill that role? Is there some tool or measure one can use to explain the level of attraction to, or lack of, for someone else other than sexual, physical, and material indicators? Above all, it is also important to focus on yourself

and discover why you think and respond the way you do. Of course, as you may have already guessed, this discussion leads us to the subject of astrology.

The subject of astrology is questioned by some, although it has existed in civilizations such as Babylonian, Ancient Egyptian, Chinese, Greek, and Roman. It has survived the fall of empires and suppression of spiritual enlightenment. Accordingly, the Ancient Egyptians were the first people to foretell a person's character by the date of birth. It was considered to be a spiritual science, which involved the relationship between the larger universe outside of oneself and the personal universe within. To put it another way, it embodied the study and analysis of ten planets, which included the sun and the moon, but not earth, and their placement among the Twelve Houses and Twelve Astrological Signs of the Zodiac at the time of one's birth.

Shakespeare in his many allusions to astrology evidenced a deep interest in and a thorough knowledge of the science. He often interjects his connection to astrology in the play, King Lear, when he writes, "The stars above govern our conditions, and I was born sir when the Crab was ascending: all my affairs go backwards." Sir Frances Bacon said, "The natures and dispositions of men are, not without truth, distinguished from the predominances of the planets." One other, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Astrology is astronomy brought to earth and applied to the affairs of men." Therefore, one can see that the subject has had significant influences on the creativity and thinking of many great people.

Astrology is sometimes coupled with numerology. Numerology within itself has existed for over 11,000 years and has been recognized since the beginning of recorded history. It focuses on one's name at birth, in conjunction with the patterns of the individual's birthday vibratory force, and becomes the basis for giving attention to one's life's experiences. For starters, it highlights an individual's motivation, expression, and impression. In this context, motivation is what one consciously wants from life. Expression denotes one's natural abilities and potential, which are used easily for negotiating and getting what is desired out of life. Impression spells out fantasies and daydreams. It also highlights pinnacles that are peak experiences or opportunities available to make dreams come true and challenges that are obstacles, which may threaten one's success. Mentioned last is one other tool that is more modern than the other two, which is that of graphology or handwriting analysis.

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Graphology is the study of personality through handwriting. Its goal is to reveal personality traits and to gauge an individual's behavioral outcome. The belief that handwriting is a sign of the inner personality is a few hundred years old. The first serious attempt seems to have been that of Camillo Baldi, and Italian scholar, who published a book on the subject in 1622. During the same time frame, graphology was practiced as an art form by such literary figures as Goethe, Poe, the Brownings and Dickens. Graphologists look for certain features such as the slant of characters, the size of individual letters, angularity and curvature, and such non-graphic features as the pressure of upward and downward strokes. They consider handwriting to be frozen body language. It is a method in which self-discovery can occur like it can with astrology and numerology.

Astrology and numerology, which are complementary, and handwriting analysis are some tools that can be used separately or collectively to help one gain insight into her or his own personality as well as that of others. The more one happens to 'know thyself', the better one can control one's own life, and choose one's own destiny. Not only that, you can get to know those close to your heart a little bit better as well.

Continued FROM page 23

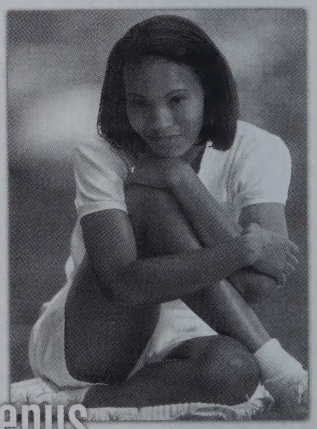
ing at my watch, at sometime I would have to get to the point. The food was placed on the table, and we were left alone for quite sometime. It was if the waiter knew we were there for serious conversation.

Simone said, "Venus let us get to the point because I realize we both have an early morning." Simone was nervous as she spoke. Venus appeared calm, and asked for direct eye contact when she spoke to Simone. Simone said, "we have this very intimate, dynamic, bond, and an unspoken sort of love without the sex you know?" We have known each other for years. I respect you and love you very much. As Simone spoke she could not help but notice Venus' beauty, the necklace she wore. She would continue to look into Sirnone's eyes as they spoke. Simone said, Venus you have seen me in my high, low, and in between times, "You have always loved me unconditional without many expectations." Venus said, "when you love someone it is unconditional and I love you that way." She continue to talk. Venus said, You don't have to tell me how you love me Simone I feel that love from you for years I have." Her voice was so silky, sentimental, and full of love as she spoke. Simone looked at Venus saying, "Why haven't you said anything all these years?" Venus said, "Simone you will not put that decision on me." I have wanted you for years to say these words." Simone wondered what was Venus really afraid of? Maybe the love she knew Simone wanted to offer her for years, an unconditional love. Simone was ready to go all the way with Venus, giving her body, soul, and heart, and anything else Venus wished for. Venus had water in her eyes as they continued to speak. Simone reminded Venus of a very intimate Valentine's evening they shared together last year. Simone said, "It was the most romantic, beautiful setting I had shared with a woman in a long time." "I recall the flowers, cards, cake, and the lovely dinner we shared." Upon returning to your home we had champagne and we opened gifts together. I remember how we stared into each others eyes, and at that moment I wanted to give myself to you. Simone said, "I wanted to give all of me, but I was very vulnerable then." I had just ended a courtship and I wanted to be totally sure I wanted all of you. Simone went on speaking, I cannot be in two places at one time, I have to be all the way in that one place with you. Simone asked, "Venus, baby do you hear anything what I am saying?"

Venus was silent she was still staring at Simone. Venus said, "I am not the easiest person to get along with Simone." Simone said "I know that Venus, but I love you truly. I could have told you this years ago. It was not time." Simone kept on speaking to Venus. "You need to hear all of this and I need to be allowed to say it to you. I will Love you always. Our night of Valentine's is recorded in my memory bank of beautiful memories. I have truly only loved three women in my whole life. You, Venus, I place at the top of the list." Venus was at that moment stunned or so, she appeared. Venus said, "Simone nothing will change between us. Our love and bond will grow stronger now, I assure you. As long as you expect nothing else from me." Simone placed her right hand to her chin as if she were thinking. Simone said, "No Venus I expect nothing else from you, and I will always love you." Simone was somewhat hurt at the moment. But, she was trying not to show this to Venus. Simone and Venus were both silent gazing into each others eyes. Simone was in deep thought. A dozen thoughts were rushing through her head about Venus and Michelle. Michelle was Simone's ex lover. Venus was not aware, but Simone had driven to Michelle's house unannounced two days prior. Simone would ask Michelle for a second chance. It was raining this day, while driving to Michelle's house she thought of Venus. She thought of how she truly loved her and possible longed for her.

Simone thought of the beautiful, romantic, friendly, loving moments with Michelle. Michelle gave Simone time, and she cared for her deeply. But, Michelle never told Simone she loved her. She showed this love all the time. Michelle hurt Simone deeply. Michelle knew this, so she cut Simone off on a face to face level. Simone was now hurt again at the table sitting with Venus. This was a different hurt. Simone had revealed years of unspoken love for this woman. She wondered if she had just broken the years of their bond, and a lovely friendship. Simone never told Venus the many secrets she and Michelle shared. Those were very private between Simone and Michelle. One Spring night at Michelle's while Simone was massaging Michelle's feet, a secret was revealed. Simone spoiled Michelle, she adored her. Michelle would raise up from the couch to enter her bedroom to get a letter and photo from a woman. Michelle was a tall chocolate, drop of a woman. She had the body of life, and she had lots of sex appeal. Michelle returned to the couch. She was now holding Simone's right hand and speaking to her softly. Michelle said, "Simone I have seen you two together, and you love her very much." "It shows in your eyes, and Venus loves you very much." Michelle said, "I don't have this kind of friendship and bond with my friends that you share with her. " This bond you two share is very deep, with many ties. Michelle went on speaking about a woman once in her life. They were still very good friends. Michelle said, "If circumstances were different she would have been my lover. The cards were dealt another way, so I love her the only way she will allow me." Simone was still very quite absorbing things. Michelle said, Simone this is okay with me. "I truly care for you deeply, but I have to be able to say I love you back." Simone had water in her eyes now, holding back the tears. Simone said, "Michelle I feel that love from you even if you never say it." There was a five minute pause. Simone said, "thank you Michelle and I love you always." Simone and Michelle parted ways two months after that conversation.

Simone came back to earth from her thoughts, speaking to Venus as they remained sitting at the table. Simone said, I guess we better get the check and go sweetie it's getting late. Simone got the attention of the waiter. They paid the check, and proceeded outside of the restaurant.



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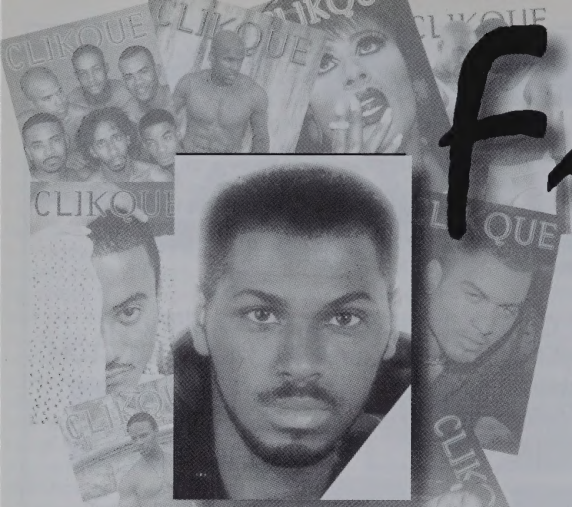
Simone didn't live very far from the restaurant. She wanted more time with Venus, but she knew not to ask. Simone was afraid of the answer Venus would give her. Both walking together in the rain in silence. They could only hear the rain and feel the cold on their bodies. Simone knew the bond and love would change now after this night. It would take a new form. They were helping each other get to the next phase in each of their lives. They were now at their cars ready to take separate roads home. They both turned to each other face to face. Venus looked at Simone and said "I love you." Simone said, "I love you too." Simone wanted to hold Venus tight. She recalled this sort of goodbye just eight months ago. Now she could only hope she would not receive the same tone from Venus as Michelle had given. Venus was truly Simone's girl and her ace in the whole. She would have to except the answer given at dinner. Because that love, bond, and friendship were too important. Venus got into her black Benz driving off in the rain. Simone sat in her aqua-blue Four Wheel Drive watching Venus drive off. She sat with tears streaming down her eyes. She thought to herself with a chuckle; "Damn a girl gets the boot twice in two days!" After all of these years of this unspoken love it was out now. Simone felt like the many women she watched Venus lust, sex, and probably love. She to recalled her dirt from her own past. So, she would not judge Venus because she loved her and they were friends.

Simone drove home slowly in the rain playing a Coltrane CD. Venus loved Coltrane's music. Simone was home now safely, and she got comfortable for the evening. She poured herself a glass of Chardonnay and put some nice Jazz piano music on. She pulled out several photos of she and Venus, and the Valentines card Venus gave her a year ago. She sat thinking of the many phone calls from Venus. Venus would say, "Simone I hope you know if you need anything all you have to do is ask." She thought of Michelle letting her go to truly find what Simone wanted in life. Simone thought of what she told Michelle after asking for a second chance; "I Love you always and I want you to truly find what you are searching for." "I will cherish this chapter in my life always Michelle." Simone continued to look through the photo album. There was jazz and scented candles in the background. Simone knew why she would not give herself to Venus that Valentine's night. She loved Venus too much, she was fearful of loosing that very intimate, dynamic, tantalizing, bond, and that unspoken love they shared.

Simone moved away a year after that dinner with Venus to the East Coast. She became very successful in her work in Politics and Journalism. Simone and Venus would remain good friends sharing a very intimate, dynamic, bond, and love. They continued to grow stronger together in their secret ties. Sirnone would be the Best Man or Best Woman at Venus Ceremony. Venus would take charge and always be there for Simone and love her the way she only knew and would allow herself. Sometimes they would fall asleep in each others arms in the spoon position. And Simone would have the neatest dreams. Simone has not bothered to think about what it is they share. She does not really care. What's important is two people love each other, and they respect what they share together. They are together always in mind, body, and soul. No boundry is big enough to keep true lovers and friends apart.



Fierce

The Column

Remmington Ross

The Prince Of Pageantry

Bon Jour Madam's and Misieur's it brings me great pleasure to introduce to some and present to others another article about the underworld of Gay Pageantry my focus is **FIERCE.** Let me start off by saying it is truly a passion of mine to take the time out of my schedule and give back to the community by keeping you abreast of what is happening from California to Atlanta. People are reading Clikque from Canada to Puerto Rico and if you visit us on the web site **www.clikque.com** we are all over the world.

Fortunately, I take the time out to get every detail possible (getting tea) by combining eye witness reports, judges opinions, and reliable reviews to determine what is worth reporting. October was busy month for collecting data. I would like to cover all systems results and happenings in every issue. First let me start off by saluting **Miss Florida** for being the oldest pageant system. Many of you still do not know that Miss Florida is older than Miss America owned by **Norma Christie.** The new **Miss Gay American** is a native Houstonian, her name is **Catia Lee Love** who now resides in Oklahoma. **Miss Gay USA at Large** was a success with over thirty contestants. It was held in Indianapolis, IN. **Victoria Parker** (The current reigning Miss Liberty Plus) was fourth runner up. **Leslie Ryan** the hometown favorite was third runner-up. **Kofi**, another Houstonian in the news was second runner up. Winning best production was another Houstonian **Chevelle Brooks** and first runner-up. The winner a former Miss Continental Plus- **Victoria La Paige.** Thanks goes out to **Tyra Brooks** for the eyewitness report. Miss Gay Universe at Large was held in Galveston, Texas, Oct. 22-23 with eight contestants. **Sosha Boom** won talent and was awarded first alternate. Winning evening gown, talent and spokesmodel was **Jill Jordan.**

If you are unfamiliar with any of these names or pageants it is because they are owned by Caucasian's. It would only be fair to include all pageant news in the gay underworld. I started out doing pageants in the Mr. USA system. **I have always had a Ross saying "that I do not need a black title to tell me that I am black. I can look in the mirror everyday and confirm that".** I have always been a versatile entertainer as well as owner of a few USA pageants. Therefore my love for pageants will always patronize the entertainers styles of USofA and Universe. After being involved in black entertainment for over ten years seeing the unity in Atlanta with national exhibitions has made me appreciate FUBU Systems (For Us & By Us).

In 1994, I attended the first Miss National FFI (For Female Impersonators) in Atlanta, Ga. I to this day have not been to any national pageants with as many powerhouse contestants, influential dignitaries and dynamic entertainers. **Tandi Andrews** was awarded Miss National that year. **Tommie Ross** was first runner-up and passed the title on to **Tasha Long** the following year. When dual title holder of Miss Black America and Miss Black Universe, **Paris Frantz** hit the stage, I thought that there was some type of confusion to have a woman on stage. After meeting Paris and Universe owner **Mr. Rande Matthew's,** I flew Paris to Texas for her very first Texas appearance at **Miss Essence 1994.** I also supported her in **Miss Continental 1996** and flew her again to **Miss Essence 1997.** When all opposition was against her I was still in her corner. I love her unconditionally and I respect that blood is thicker than water. May God continue to bless you.

Four years ago I fell in love with the **Black Universe System** and won Mr. Black Texas. It was a financial strain preparing for a competition over 800 miles away. I will always respect the Black Universe system for it's business and political views. I took a chance on entering a preliminary given by **Ron Taylor (Kasmere).** Each category was mine that night. Ron Taylor the original owner of Black Texas Universe recently passed away. I will always remember him, his business ethics, he taught me to always be prepared.

I spoke with **Archie Bonet**, the new owner of Universe and he is ready for the 9th annual competition to be held the last week in October. **Jacobie Ross** (Mr. Wolfindales - New Orleans) and **Tiffany Brooks** were both awarded the titles of Mr. & Miss Black Houston Universe, the last prelim and are on there way to competition. OH but V. I. V. A.! Viva, is the name of newcomer **Valerie Iman Van Augustine** who was first runner-up. She was electrifying in her performance and will be ready for any national competition. **Ty Young** was (1st alternate) in the male division. As results were called out the crowd disrespectfully booed the end results. Always remember who picked the judges and then see the owner or club that organized the event. But please do not act that improper in public, give respect to the participants because it is hard for entertainers to stand before an audience and entertain.

Once again **Miss Clikque Pageantry System** is on the move. On Octobert 8th, **Terry Lynn-Foxx** won **Miss Clikque New Orleans** and **Lawanda Jackson** (1st Alternate). Their both headed to Miss Clikque America in January in Atlanta. A big round of applause goes out to **Montreal Coleman** for organizing such a successful preliminary. Please call the Clikque office to get your tickets to see who will be crowned the first national queen of the New Millennium.

Tijuana Brooks, Miss Essence '99 reads every issue of Clikque and I would like to thank her for being supportive. She and **Black Velvet** (ME'94) who has a Master in Education will be hosting an interest seminar in December for Essence Pageantry System. The local pageantry system hosted the 37th Birthday party for **Bruce Chivers** at Incognito

JUST IN

Congratulations

To The New Rulers Of The Universe

Necole Luv Dupree

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the Club. Trevon Ross, Mr. Essence 99, **Tijuana & Raven St. James** headlined this function with **Cookie LaCook** as Mistress of Ceremony. **Montel Alexander, Remmington Ross, Porsche Paris, Freda Payne, Ms Allegra, Chanel Nicole, Ashley Iman, Li Le (Mr. Stud Essence 99), Mr. Incognito Tevin St. James** entertained for the dignitaries and smiled for the camera. Good luck on your Diva Show **Rande Rochelle. Grover Fortenberry** has informed me that Rascals will be hosting their Woman of The Year Pageant (For Females only) on Sunday November 21 and Mr. & Miss Rascals Newcomer Contest on Thanksgiving.

Well in closing I would like to share with you a conversation that my God mother and the mother of Atlanta, **Niesha Dupree** and I had a few years ago. She told me that she moved to Atlanta from Mississippi to pursue her creative talents in entertainment. Sometimes it is essential to move in order to get your respect. I applaud **Tamish Iman, Jennifer St. John, Lawanda Jackson, The late Dan Hanks (my grandfather), Jasmine Bonet, Sophia McIintosh, Maxine Blue, Al Dupree, and the late Amazing Grace** for making that move in order to enhance their careers. Also I reflect on a conversation that Sophia and I had at the home of **Artesia Waters,** my best friend of twelve years. She asked me "Can you see your self on a national level as a king?" She said that anyone can be national, but get your priority together before following that dream. Well Sophia, now I am on another national stage and my platform is writing about pageants. The wisdom of Sophia, Niesha, and partner Bruce Chivers has taught me that no matter how much you are disliked, that enviousness, jealousy, backstabbing, and deceit can kill a person..., so I smile in the face of opposition.

Shouts out to **Dewayne Bonet** in Florida and **Antonio** in H-town. That's all for now and see you out "Crownscoping" at Black Universe and Black America.

Until next issue Respectfully, Ross

Miss Clikque America

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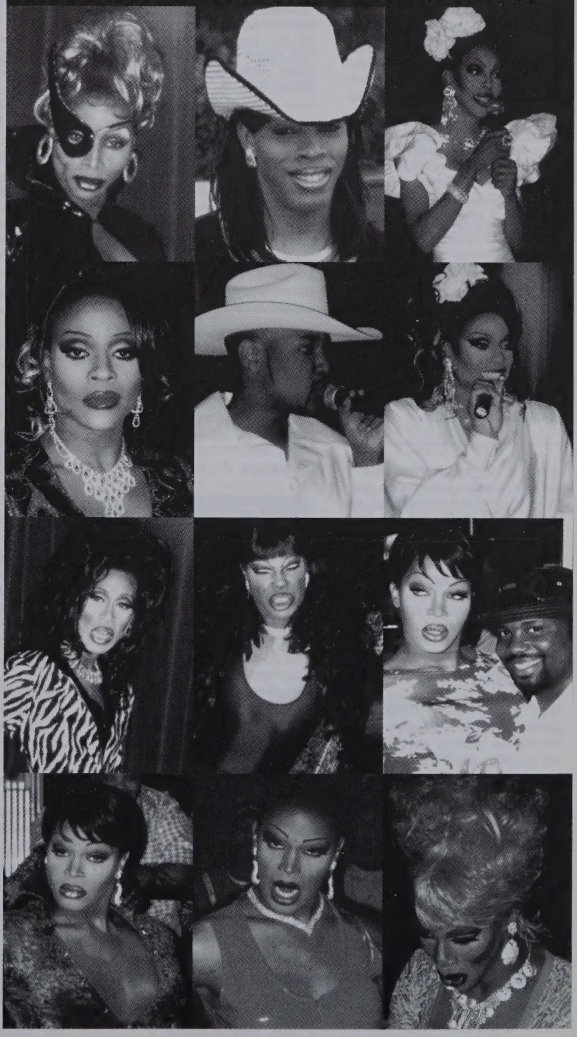

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Call one of the numbers above and place a **FREE PERSONAL AD** that will print in next months issue of Clikque Magazine. Adults 18+ Only.

Clikque Connection — Men Seeking Men

California

VERY ORAL Michael is a 30-year-old, good-looking, very oral, straight Guy, enjoys partying, having fun. Seeking well-endowed Male, for oral pleasure. ☎ 20253

TATTOED AND PEIRCED David is 5'8", dark/blue, tattooed, pierced, enjoys romantic evenings, movies. Seeking Male with similar interests. ☎19914

LET'S PLAY 37-year-old Male, 6'0", 170 lbs., enjoys ass play, partying, toys, fisting. Seeking Men in Los Angeles, the Valley, Palm Springs, San Diego, for mutual ass play. ☎13966

GOOD-LOOKIN GUY Matt is 6'2", 170 lbs., short brown/brown, washboard stomach, enjoys surfing. If this sounds good, leave a message. ☎13820

HOPE TO HOOK UP Joe is 6'1", brown/brown, smooth, Philippino decent. Seeking some hot action. (Los Angeles) _13963

e SM, 37, 6'0", 200 lbs., enjoys rock climbing, sailing. Seeking SM to have adventures with. ☎20016

BOTTOM LOOKING FORA TOP If you're serious and looking for a good time, leave me a message. Call me soon, I really need a hot top. (San Francisco) ☎14537

SHOW ME SOMETHING NEW Mexican-German M, looking for a friend to have fun with. I'm kind of shy and need someone to show me the ropes. If you're interested in showing some new ways to have fun, give me a call. (San Diego) ☎18549

LET'S HOOK UP SBM, 6'0", enjoys working out. Seeking someone special. (Los Angeles) ☎10037

MANIC PASSIONATE Heavy-set Mexican-American M, mid 30s, moderately hairy, beard, easygoing, laid-back, responsible, good-hearted and a romantic. Looking for muscular-stocky Latino/WM, late 20s-late 40s, with a good sense of humor. Muscular legs and hairy a plus. (Los Angeles) ☎17427

JUST ASK If you want a submissive, feminine M, who will do anything your heart desires, call me. (Victorville) ☎10798

I LOVE LATINOS Young, nice-looking GBM, new to the area, seeking Latino/HM, 18-24, with a respectable attitude. No Games. (Torrance) ☎15504

Floida

ROCK N' ROLL 21-year-old Male 5'6", 135 lbs., long dark hair, some piercings, enjoys rock 'n' roll and country music. Seeking sexy Man 20-24. (Miami) ☎13975

FUN AND MORE Very attractive, bottom, 5'11", 170 lbs, brown/blue, goatee, swimmers build, available for fun and recreation with top and versatile tops. (Gainesville) ☎17758

COOL SOUTH AFRICAN BROTHER BM, 32, 5'6", brown-skinned, hairy chest, looking to meet a very attractive top Guys, 23+, to hook up with. (Miami) ☎17779

BE MY GIRL 27-year-old BM, looking for TV/TS, who want to have a good time with me. Give me a call. (Jacksonville) ☎19173

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR 50-year-old GM, college-educated, looking for young, attractive, hairy WM, for possible romance. ☎14006

Georgia

KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW Jay is a 21-year-old BM 5'8", 150 lbs., bowlegged, straight-acting, masculine, very attractive. Seeking Male to chill with on the down low. (Atlanta) ☎19655

ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

I NEED IT REAL BAD Bi-curious BM, looking for someone to teach what this is like. Can you teach me? (Savannah) ☎20427

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

SKIN TO SKIN CONTACT Straight-acting Married M, 6'1", 200 lbs, long brown/blue, seeking slender, well-endowed BiM, who likes giving and receiving, oral and anal. Discretion expected and assured. Race unimportant. (Atlanta) ☎19150

CARING AND COMPASSIONATE Ricky is a 37-year-old Male 5'8", 190 brown/green, very compassionate, caring, loving. Seeking big, stocky, hairy Male 49-58. (Atlanta) ☎19956

NEW TO THE GAY SCENE 21-year-old Male, 6'0", 160 lbs., well-endowed, enjoys sports, movies, late-night talks. Seeking Male 20-40, with similar interests, for fun times. (Charlesboro) ☎14939

TAKING MY TIME Black-Native American Male, 5'11", 175 lbs., physically fit, well-groomed, college-educated. Seeking Male, slim, my height or taller, attractive, who enjoy working out, for friendship. (Atlanta) ☎13069

HIT ME UP SBM 28 looking for a Male companion to hang out and kick it with. (Atlanta) ☎12299

JUST HAVING FUN 39-year-old dark-skinned BM, looking for Guys, around my age, to hang out and have fun with. (Georgia) ☎17612

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT Straight-acting, Married WM, 30s, 6'1", 210 lbs, long brown hair, hairy chest, seeking a passive BiM, who likes X-rated videos and exploring. (Atlanta) ☎17748

IS THIS YOU? Jay would like to meet an out-going, sensitive, honest SM, who wants to have alot of fun. (Atlanta) ☎21956

LOW-KEY GUY Good-looking, in shape, 38-year-old GWM, 5'9", 165 lbs., stable, n/drugs, varied interests. Seeking SM for dating, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎21781

SEEKING SIMILAR BM Very masculine BM, 5'7", 150 lbs, attractive, muscular and looking for a muscular, masculine BM, for friendship and possibly more. (Atlanta) ☎21586

MUST BE DISCREET Looking for a straight-acting brother for friendship and possible relationship. If you're down with that, leave me a message. Peace. (Atlanta)☎20181

ISO A LIGHT-SKINNED BROTHER Black/Filipino/ Puerto Rican M, 21, 5'4", 130 lbs, blonde/brown, looking for a light-skinned brother, 21-28, who's tall and built with a gorgeous body. ☎19400

I'M ALL THAT Very romantic BM, 5'7", medium brown, likes movies, hiking and walks in the park. Looking for a BM, 18-30, to hook up with. No fats and no femmes. (Atlanta) ☎17447

HONEST, OUTGOING AND FUN 31-year-old WM, 6'1", 170 lbs, brown/blue-green, looking for Guys ,18-35, for friendship and possible relationship. (Waterboro) ☎14730

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP Looking for a nice, fun-loving Guy who loves dining out, movies and long walks. If this is you, give me a call. (Decatur) ☎13272

NO GAME PLAYERS Married, down-to-earth BM, 5'10", slim, D/D free. Seeking nice, out-going BM, 26-35, no games. (Atlanta) ☎19884

I'LL BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND 29-year-old, passable BCD, 5'9", 160 lbs, pecan-tanned, clean, discreet, ISO a secure Gentleman who knows what he wants and who has a sensitive side. (Savannah) ☎18756

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 lbs, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth Latino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick it with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, leave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

Illinois

CHAT WITH ME D is a 35-year-old Male, 5'11", 180 lbs., dark-skinned, well-built, attractive. Seeking Male to have fun or develop a relationship with. (Chicago) ☎20131

KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS Dontae is a good-looking GWM, 21, 5'7", 130 lbs., light brown/blue, great smile, well-educated, enjoys outdoors, clubbing, sex, drinking, smoking. Seeking good-looking, in shape, Male with similar interests. (Round Lake) ☎19278

Clikque Connection — Men Seeking Men

LET'S BE FRIENDS 36-year-old Black/Mexican Male, 5'7", 155 lbs. Seeking Male friend, 25-40, 150-160 lbs., must have transportation. (Chicago) ☎18282

NO ONE NIGHTERS 31-year-old, good-looking, in shape, intelligent Guy, HIV+. Seeking bright, fun to be with, good to look at, bottom Guy, 28-35 to date. (Chicago) ☎14293

TOTAL BOTTOM Gene is a 35-year-old BM, 195 lbs., 5'9", tight bottom. Seeking masculine, well-endowed top. (Chicago) ☎13538

GOOD LIPS? Steve is a SGWM, 38 seeking lover who's tall, dark and sexy. Must be special and have good lips. (Mount Prospect) ☎13320

NEED A HUG? Tall, masculine WM, seeking tall, masculine BM, with an insatiable desire to hug and be hugged. (Chicago) ☎21737

LOOKS UNIMPORTANT Smooth, well-endowed GWM, 27, 180 lbs, 5'10", black/blue, likes sports, movies, dining gout, going out and having fun. Looking for a Latino/WM, 20-30, for friendship or possible long-term relationship. Nonsmoker and social drinker referred. (Chicago) ☎20105

I LOVE DRESSING UP Very hot, sexy CD in Chicago, looking for someone to play with and have fun with in the area. Leave me a message, I promise I'll call you back. (Chicago) ☎13469

TOP SEEKS BOTTOMS Dominant WM, 45, well-endowed, attractive, looking for smooth, submissive bottoms. Race unimportant. ☎13324

Michigan

PEIRCED NIPPLES 21-year-old Male, 5'6", 135 lbs., goatee, shaved head, pierced nipples. Seeking Male 35+, hairy, daddy-bear type, facial hair a must, to serve and please. (Detroit) ☎20278

YOUNG MAN WANTED Masculine, attractive, dominant BM seeking young Male into a variety of things. (Detroit) ☎11101

SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT? Nice-looking BM, looking for a good-looking BM, 22-42, 5'8"-6', to hang out with and possibly start a relationship. Let's get together and get to know each other. (Detroit) ☎11266

I'LL DO ANYTHING Good-looking BM looking for a hardcore Man who likes to do anything. If you're interested, call me up and we'll get together. (Detroit) ☎19650

New York

BUTT BUDDIES Bob is a 55-year-old Male, 5'4", 145 lbs., stocky, crew-cut, top. Seeking Male for fun times. (New York City) ☎20021

HIT ME BACK Scott is 40-year-old Male 5'5", 130 lbs., brown/blue, mustache, Italian background, cute, hot. Seeking hot, in shape top Male for first-time fisting. (New York City) ☎15819

NASTY PIG Tony is a 38-year-old, Italian/Greek Male, well-built, hard body, muscular, well-endowed, enjoys fisting, watersports. (New York City) ☎13756

I LIKE LOTS OF THINGS 37-year-old M, really into oral and likes lots of things. Looking for an older Guy, 40-55, who would be interested in getting together with me. (New York) ☎19264

EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE Very active, good-natured, retired, daddy type, who wants to enjoy the rest of his life with a couple of young Guys. Must be W/H, 20s, 6'+, good-looking, reliable, health conscious, into working out and have six pack abs. (New York) ☎17556

Tennessee

GOOD, HOT SEX T.J. is a SBiWM, 6'0", 225-230 lbs., brown/blue, top, stocky, smooth, nicely-endowed. Seeking Gay or Bi Males, bottom, well-endowed, for good times. (Nashville) ☎19623

BORING GUY? 26-year-old BM, 5'11", 184 lbs., dredlocks, brown eyes, enjoys cooking, reading, running, cleaning, employed, dogs. If interested, leave a message. (Memphis) ☎21869

LET'S CHILL Sexy, brown-skinned BM, 6'1", 150 lbs. Seeking SM, for friendship, possibly more. (Memphis) ☎10531

JUST FUN 35-year-old WM, brown/blue, tanned, toned and looking to meet a BM, 21-35, in the Memphis area, for a no strings, hot, sexual relationship. (Memphis) ☎21822

Texas

VERY INTELLIGENT 21-year-old BM, 5'6", 185 lbs., brown-skinned, black/brown, enjoys movies, chillin with friends. Seeking out-going, adventuresome Male for friendship. (Houston) ☎22298

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED! Jimmy is 5'11", 225 lbs., brown/blue, muscular, well-built. Seeking a White She-Male, 21-40, good-looking, to be treated like a Lady. (Dallas) ☎21317

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

COLLEGE FRAT BOY LOOK Beau is 5'11", 160 lbs., brown/hazel, athletic, clean-cut, smooth, boyish, frat boy looking. Seeking Male 18-25, smooth, clean-cut, surfer boy, frat boy types are a plus. (Forworth) _14354

SEEKING SAME SBM 26, 5'8", 140 lbs, enjoys having fun, going out. Seeking SM 26-40, with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Houston) _18985

LET'S HANG OUT BM in mid-30s, 5'11", 155 lbs., athletic build, medium brown complexion, mustache, goatee, bald. Seeking slim, masculine Male, with similar stats, 19-32 to hang out with. (Houston) _13035

STRICTLY BI Jimmy is a 35-year-old WM, 6'0", 220 lbs., brown/blue, very handsome and well-built. Seeking Married Male 21-40, for discreet relationship. No gays please. (Dallas) _13415

NOT A SEX AD! 42-year-old GBM, 5'11", average-looking big Guy with a great personality, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times. Seeking SM sincere, genuine to form a monogamous relationship. No games (Dallas) ☎21673

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

SKIN TIGHT LEVIS Professional swimmer, 5'8", 140 lbs, tanned, muscular, shaved, looking for a down-to-earth Guy, who likes swimming, working out, music, having fun and a lot of body contact. (Dallas) ☎21475

IS THAT YOU? Young BM, 5'8", heavy -set, brown/brown, looking for that special someone to share life with. (Houston) ☎19892

TRYING TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE BM, 21, 5'9", 160 lbs, smooth, slender build, very attractive, masculine and outgoing, looking for some cool people to hang with. Not really looking for a sexual relationship, right now, just friendship. ☎19913

BI GUY PREFERRED BM, 25, 5'5", 140 lbs, nice body, looking for a mature BIM, 30-50. No fats and no femmes. (Houston) ☎12765

POSSIBLITIES Bottom GHM, 37, smoker, drinker who loves to please his partner. Looking for a top W/HM. If you would love to start a new friendship with the possibility of a long-term relationship. ☎21406

HIT ME UP! 21-year-old BM, 5'9", 145 lbs, attractive, sexy and toned. Seeking a masculine, muscular, attractive Latino/BM who want to get with me. ☎20366

Virginia

WILD AND DIFFERENT Straight-acting WM, 5'8", 140-150 lbs., smooth, clean-cut. Seeking Males to help fulfill fantasy. (Lynchburg) ☎20608

ARE YOU HORNY? Tim is a shy, reserved, discreet GWM 38, 6'1", 185 lbs., dark/green. Seeking Guys for hot, discreet fun. (Lynchburg) ☎22215

SEEKING SIMILAR Phillip is a BiWM, 5'7", 140 lbs., clean-cut, very smooth, good-looking, straight-acting. Seeking straight-acting Male with similar qualities, for good times. ☎20350

GET OFF ON THE PHONE Michael is a 38-year-old Male 5'9', 160 lbs., brown/green, well-endowed, hairy chest who enjoys phone sex. (New Kent) ☎13232

TO RESPOND TO ADS...

...Browse Or Retrieve Messages, Call The 900 or 800 Numbers Below

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To Charge To Your Local Phone Bill

To Charge To Your Credit Cards

Only $1.99 per minute. You Must Be 18+ • Customer Service: 612-373-9783

STEPPINGOUT

YOUR PREMIERE GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed here.

ATLANTA, GA

BACKSTREET ATLANTA
845 Peachtree Street (Rear Entrance) 404-873-1986. Always Open & Pouring. Membership Required * Membership Available. Hip-Hop Tuesdays w/DJ Biff

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025. Blackest on Fri. & Sat.

CLUB FUSION
550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR
W. Peachtree & 15th St., 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

THE MARQUETTE LOUNGE
809 Martin Luther King Dr. NW

THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THE SEQUEL
708 SPRING STREET, 404-874-825. OPEN SUNDAYS- WEDNESDAYS

THELMA'S PUMP ROOM
836 Juniper, 404-881-9230. Black on Friday Nights for the Best in Female Impersonation.

TRAXX NIGHTCLUB
306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422
Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays Nights Hip-Hop Dance Floor, House & Classics.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

LATROYS
316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE, NC

300 STONEWALL
300 E. Stonewall (at S. Blvd.), 704-347-4200

CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566

CLEVELAND, OH

DOMINOS
612 Prospect Ave 216-771-9020.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS
2909 Detroit Av., 216-574-2203. Black on Fri. & Saturdays

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

CLUB ENVY 216 N. Crowdus, 214-742-2708.

DENVER, CO

RAVEN 2217 Welton Street, Fridays & Saturdays

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

ZIPPERS
6221 E. Davison, 313-892-8120

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

GREENSBORO, NC

BABYLON 221 S. Elm Street, 336-275-1006.

GREENVILLE, SC

CLUB NEW ATTITUDE
706 W. Washington St., 864-233-1387

HOUSTON, TX

INCOGNITO- THE CLUB
2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS THE NIGHTCLUB
1318 Westheimer, 713-942-CLUB. Mostly Black Thursdays - Sundays from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS
200 N. Mills St., Downtown, 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

LOS ANGELES, CA

BOYTRADE-EL REY 5525 Wilshire Blvd.

CATCH ONE
4067 W. Pico Blvd., 213-737-1159. Blackest on Saturdays

STUDY
1723 N. Western Ave., 213-464-9551. Watering hole- Black Owned

MEMPHIS, TN

N-COGNITO 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MIAMI/FT. LAUD., FL

LA CAUGE 7900 First Ave. NE, Miami

COPA NIGHTCLUB
2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

CASABLANCA
Hallendale Beach - Off I-95 954-454-8400. Thurday Night all Black, Male Dancers

SUGAR'S
17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday

WATERFRONT
36th Street near Airport., Miami, 305-635-5696. Blackest on Tuesdays

NASHVILLE, TN

THE CONNECTION

901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

THE CHUTE COMPLEX
2535 Franklin Road, 615-297-4571 Blackest on Wednesdays

THE GASLITE
167 1/2 8th Ave.,615-254-1278

THE JUNGLE
306 4th Ave. South, 615-256-9411

NEW ORLEANS, LA

OZ
800 Bourbon Street, 504-593-9491. Opens 24-7.

WOLFENDALE'S
834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

NEW YORK, NY

CLIT CLUB
432 W. 14th St., 212-406-1114. Fridays only Women.

CLUB HOUSE
215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays.

CLUB DOWNTIME
251 W. 30th St. (Between 7th & 8th Ave.) 212-591-1622. Friday Nights for Women Only.

ESCUELITA
301 West 39th St. (Corner of 8th Ave.) 212-631-0588. Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

MANHATTAN MONSTER
80 Grove St., New York, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT
1 Front St., Brooklyn, 718-852-0139.

THE OCTAGON
555 W. 33rd St., New York, 212-947-0400.

THE WAREHOUSE
141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

NEWARK, NJ

MURPHY'S TAVERN
59 Edison Pl., 973-622-9176.

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT
120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

CABEL'S REEF
2272 Telegraph Ave.,510-451-3777. Black dancing Fridays & Saturdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA, FL

CHERAKEE CLUB
1320 E. 9th Ave. 813-247-9966, Tampa, FL. Blackest Fridays

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

PHOENIX, AZ

INCOGNITO
2424 E. Thomas Rd., 602-955-9805. Blackest Friday & Saturday after hours.

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS
536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmond's African-American Club of True Diversity.

RUMOURS II
1008 North Blvd.,804-358-3838

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

THE ENDUP
401 6th St. 415-357-0827. Blackest Sunday afternoon.

THE BOX
628 Divisidaro, 415-647-8258. Multicultural

CLUB Q
177 Townsend St., 415-647-8258. First Friday of Month. Women's Party

TALLAHASSEE, FL

CLUB PARK AVENUE
115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

BROTHERS
926 West Tharpe Street, 850-386-2399. Black Nights-Fridays & Saturdays.

WASHINGTON, DC

BACHELOR'S MILL
1104 8th St. S.E., 202-544-1931.Black Men Dancing Thursday thru Saturday.

CLUB DIVERSITE
1526 14th St. N.W., 202-387-2338.

CLUB SECRETS @ 2:K:9
2009 8th St. NW, 888-594-WISE. Sundays 9pm-Until.

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St. N.E., 202-529-0626. Women on Fridays & Men on Saturdays.

THE EDGE
56 L St. S.E., 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

THE BIG HUNT
1345 Connecticut Ave. NW, Hip-Hop Club Sundays 5-11pm.

NOB HILL
1101 Kenyon St. NW, 202-797-1101. Very Friendly Crowd- Black Owned.

TRACKS
1111 First St. SE, 202-488-3320. Black on Friday Nights with Dancers Entertainment.

CLIKQUEBOOKSTAND

YOUR PREMIERE GUIDE TO SOME OF THE BOOKSTORES THAT CARRY CLIKQUE

Albuquerque, NM
Sisters and Brothers — 505 266 7317 — 4011 Silver Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI
Common Language — 734-663-0036 — 215 S. 4th Ave.
Websters/Nicola's — 734 662-6150 — 2607 Plymouth Rd.

Atlanta, GA
Brushstrokes —404 876 6567 — 1510 Piedmont Ave.
Charis Books & More —404 524 0304 — 1189 Euclid Ave.
Outwrite — 404 607 0082 — 991 Piedmont Ave.

Auburn, MI
Village Books — 360 715 3684 — 1210 11th st

Boston, MA
Glad Day Books — 617 267-3010 — 673 Boylston St

Brimingham, AL
Lodestar Books — 205 939-3356 — 2020 B 11th Ave.

Chicago, IL
Barbara's Bookstore — 708 848-9140 — 1350 N. Wells St
57TH Street Books — 773 684-1300 — 1301 East 57th Street

Columbus, OH
An Open Book — 614-291-0080 — 61 N. High St.

Dallas. TX
Black Images — 214 943-0142 — 230 Wynnewood Village
Crossroad — 214 521 8919 — 3930 Ceder Springs Rd.

Ft. Lauderdale, FL
The Pride Factory — 954-463-6600 — 400 N. Federal Hwy.

Grand Rapids, MI
Sons & Daughters — 616-459-8877 — 962 Cherry SE

Greensboro, SC
White Rabbit Books — 336 272 7604 — 1833 Spring Garden

Houston, TX
Oakland Marketing Inc. — 713 522-7988 — 1953 Richmond
Crossroads — 713-522-7988 — 1111 Westheimer

Ithaca
Borealis Bookstore — 607 272-7752 — 111 N Aurora St.

Key West, FL
Flaming Maggie's — 305 294-3931 — 830 Fleming St.

Las Vegas, NE
Get Booked — 612-825-0336 — 4640 Paradise #15

Memphis, TN
Davis Kidd Bookstores — 901 683-9801 — 397 Perkins Rd.

Miami, FL
Lambda Passages — 305-754-6900 — 7545 Biscayne Blvd.

Minneapolis, MI
A Brothers Touch — 612 377-6279 — 2327 Hennipin Ave.

Nashville, TN
Outloud Books & Gifts — 615-340-0034 — 1709 Church St.

New Hope
Book Gallery — 215-862-5110 — 19 west Mechanic St

New Orleans, LA
Faubourg Marigny Bookstore — 504-943-9875 — 600 Frenchmen
Bookstar — 504 523-6411 — 414 N. Peters

New York City, NY
A Different Light — 800-343-4002 — 151 W. 19th St.

Norfolk, VA
Phoenix Rising — 757-622-3701 — 619-B Colonial

Orlando, FL
Out & About Books — 407-896-0204 — 930 N. Mills Ave

Philadelphia, PN
Giovanni's Room — 215-923-2960 — 345 S. 12th Street

Phoenix, AZ
Obelisk The — 602-266-2665 — 24 W. Camelback #A

Richmond,VA
Phoenix Rising — 804-355-7939 — 19 N. Belmont

Roanoke
Out Word Connections — 540 985-6886 — 114 Kirk Ave.
Carytown — 804 359 4831 — 2930 w. Cary St.

San Deigo, CA
Obelisk The — 619 297-4171 — 1029 University Ave.

San Francisco, CA
A Different Light — 415-431-0891 — 489 Castro St.

Seattle, WA
Beyond the Closet — 206 322-4609 — 518 E. Pike

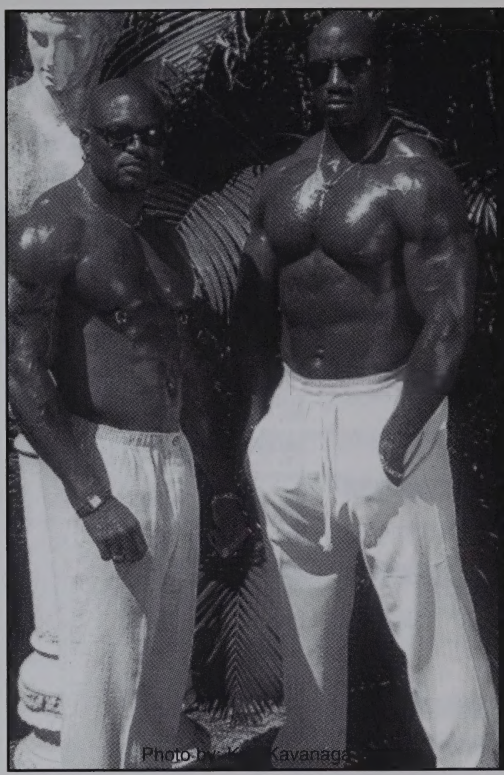
St. Louis, MO
Left Banks Books — 314 367-6731 — 399 N. Euclid Ave.

Tampa, FL
Tomes & Tresures — 813 251-9368 — 498 S. Howard Ave.

Temple Terrace
Books for Thought — 813 988- 6363 — 10910 N. 56th Street

West Hollywood, CA
A Different Light — 310-854-6601 — 8853 Santa Monica Blvd.

Washington, DC
Lambda Rising — 202-462-6969 — 1625 Connecticut Ave. NW
Vertigo Books — 202-429-9272 — 1337 Connecticut Ave. NW



Upcoming events for Bobby and Flex-Deon Blake

Thursday, November 25th, 1999/
Miami, FL/ Casablanca Nightclub/
Doors Open @ 11PM

Saturday, November 27th, 1999/
Miami, FL/ La Cauge Nightclub/
Doors Open @ 11PM

Saturday, December 5th, 1999/
Miami, FL/ Club Body Center/
Captivation Exotic Dance Performance
along with Special Guest- Adult Porn
Star J.C. Carter/ Time 10PM- Until

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WEEKLY LINE-UP

THURSDAYS

COOKIE LACOOK HOSTS SEE YA NEXT THURSDAY TALENT NIGHT

$100 Cash Prize • 21 & Up $3 B4 11 • $5 After • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events)

FRIDAYS

BOYZZZ NIGHT OUT • 21 & Up FREE B4 11 • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events) • $1.50 Domestic Beer & $2.00 Well Drinks All Night

SATURDAYS

DJ MOOKIE ON THE BOX

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE

Featuring Male & Female Dancers • 21 & Up FREE B4 11 • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events) • $2 Trash Can Punch

SUNDAYS

W/HOST GROVER FORTENBERRY SUPER SUNDAY SHOW

Featuring The Rascals Untouchables w/Host & Emcee Grover Fortenberry Showtime: 11PM • $3 B4 11 • $5 After • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events)

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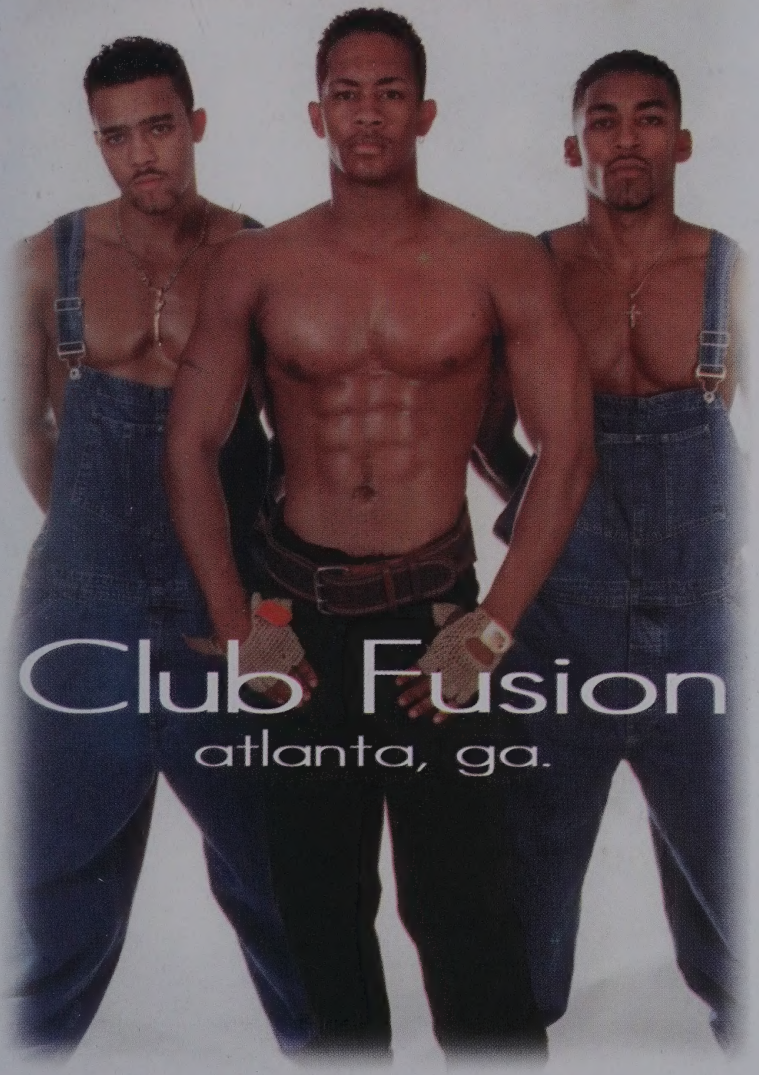
RASCALS

1318 Westheimer, Houston, Tx – 713-942-CLUB • 877-210-CLUB

CLUB 414
216 N. Crowdes @ Indiana
In Deep Ellum • 214-742-2708
Dallas' Hottest Upscale R&B Club
With Two Levels of Friendly Fun
FRIDAYS Free Buffet & Live Jazz
featuring local artists 9PM-1AM. Ole School 1AM-2AM
SATURDAYS Open Mic & lipsing show Ladies Night
SUNDAYS Essence of Jazz
8-9PM with BBQ on the patio. You bring the meat, and we'll cook it!
Ole School, R&B, Hip-Hop 9PM-2AM Boys Night

550—C Amsterdam @ Monroe, • (404) 872-6411 • website: http:www.chocolatecityusa.com
EVENTS PROMOTED BY REGGIE THOMAS AND BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER

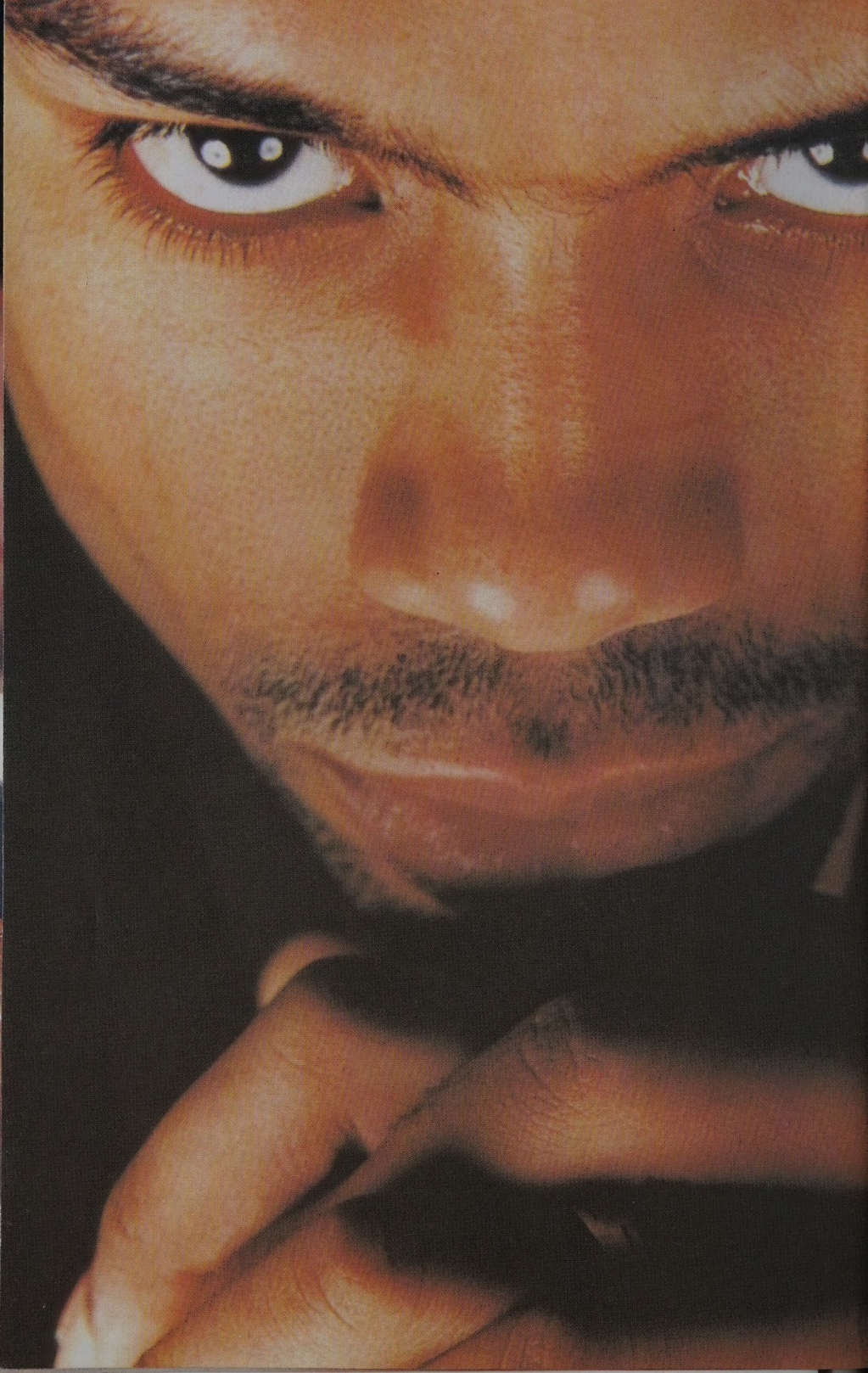


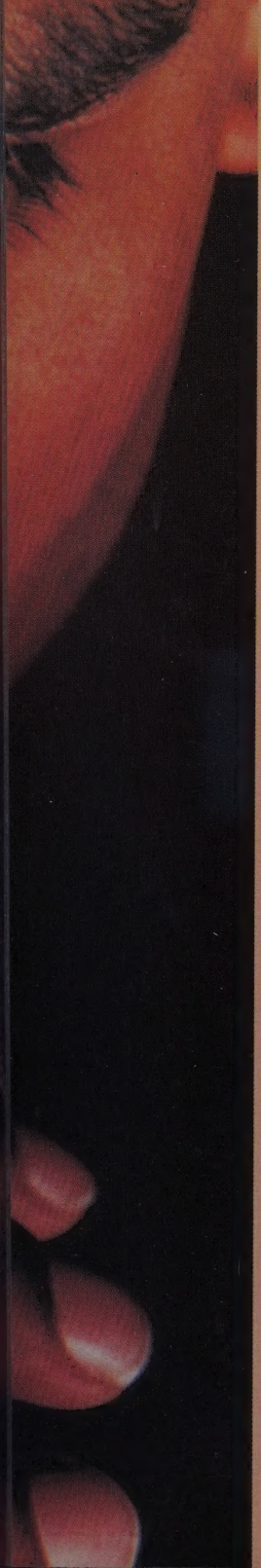
THURSDAYS: Ebony Flesh Male Review. House/Hip Hop with DJ Kevin Ford (Main Room)
Doors open @ 11 - Showtime Midnite — Hosted by Maxine Blue

FRIDAYS: B-Boy Night — DJ Sedric on the 5th and 19th — Res. DJ Kurt on the 12th and 26th - MAINROOM - HOUSE & RESIDENT DJ SMASH - HIP HOP - VYBE ROOM

HOT FUDGE SUNDAES: The Boys Are Back — Black/Latino Flesh Male Review.

— Every 1st Friday - $5.00 b4 1:00 and drink specials along with Zodiac night - get in free with id —
— Can Good Drive for the Needy - Reduced cover, if you bring a can good during the months of November and December —
— Upside Down Cocktail Hour - 1/2 off drinks from 3-4 every Friday —
— All college students receive discount with proper identification b4 1:00 every week —





TRAXX

Presents

Hot Boy Saturdays

Hot Boy Contest

"Can You Make Others Sweat?"

$200 in Cash & Prizes Every Week!

Sultry Go Go Boys Will Get Your Temperatures Rising

Check Out
The All New Third Floor
- Promising Men, Men & More Men

Available for concerts, parties, pageants, balls & fashion shows

306 Luckie Street-
(404) 681-4422
3 blocks west of the CNN Center,
Centennial Park
& the Phillips Arena in Downtown Atlanta

ThanksGiving Week @ The House of Music
Wednesday
November 24, 1999
The Gathering
DJ Ron Carroll & Steve Maestro
Listening Party for After Hours Records
Testament Singing
"It is Well"
Also on Friday:
Special Guest Performance
Listening Party for
La Tanza Waters
Mountain Top & Ordinary People
(remixed by Basement Boys Records)
HomeCook'N
music for the Soul
Friday, November 26th
The Official Release Party
for Clikque Magazine
Clikque MAGAZINE
Remixer, Producer, Super DJ "E-Smoove"
Remixer, Producer, DJ Karizma
RailsChi: Hip-Hop
& DJ Steve Maestro (WGCI)
THE RAILS ENT. GROUP
at the Prop House
Doors Open @ 11:00 PM.
Showtime 1AM.
1675 North Elston Ave.
708.802.1705
club: 773.486.2084

Mondays
STRIP TEASE
INCOGNITO
THE CLUB
Fridays
LADIES NIGHT
2524 Mckinney
@ Live oak, Houston, TX.
713-602-4506
Events Promoted By
The Infamous Cookie LaCook
"On Fridays, We Are Male Friendly"

The 15th Annual

Mr. & Miss Black America

The 4th Annual

Miss Black America Plus

Featuring:

Majesty: Mr. Black America
Yosmine Campbell Starr: Miss Black America
Amarda Korday: Miss Black America Plus

Categories:

Interview

Presentation
All that glitter, sparkle & shine - No Costume

Sportswear
Non-seasonal . No Mix Match

Talent
7 minutes & 3 minutes set-up

Evening Gown / Formal
No beads, stones, sequence

Question & Answer
Top 5 contestants

Entry Fee: $150

Mr. Black America
& Black America Plus
Registration @ 2PM on 17th
@The Pyramid - 580 Whitehall St.

Mrs. Black America
Registration @ 2PM on 18th
@The Pyramid - 580 Whitehall St

For More Info Call
Gerald or Brian
678-309-0147 HM
404-405-6264 VM
770-566-2200 Pager

Preliminary Nights
November 17th & 18

9PM @ The Pyramid — 580 Whitehall Street
Downtown - Atlanta

Final Night
November 19th

7PM @ The Pyramid —
580 Whitehall Street
Downtown - Atlanta

The Black America Pageantry System

The 6th Annual Mr. & Miss Club Colours Pageant 1999/2000

Saturday November 27th

Contestants will compete in the following categories:

Miss Club Colours
Color Presentation
Club Wear
Evening Gown
Q&A
Talent
*Color presentation will be one solid color

Mr. Club Colours
Color Presentation
Sports Wear
Formal Wear
Q&A
Talent
*Color presentation will be one solid color

Orientation @2PM

PRIZE PACKAGE
Winners: Over $1,500 in cash and prizes

First Runner Up
$100

Second Runner Up
Trophy

Cash Prizes For All Category Winners

For applications contact:
Frank @ 804-353-9776
or Randy @ 804-771-5044

536 N. Harrison St.
Richmond, Va

CLUB COLOURS

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17th

Mr. & Miss Club City Light

Studio 2000

Club City Lights – Jackson, Mississippi

Weekly Line-up

Fiercest Fridays
with L.C. Simpson, Jr.

Saturdays
Great Entertainment by duo Dee Dee LaBelle & Kianna Vanessia Van-Micheals

Sundays
Sunday Night Madness with Contessa DeMoria as "Auntee Messy Maggie"

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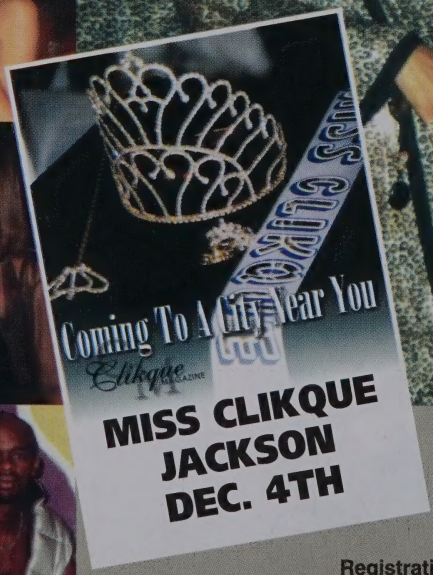

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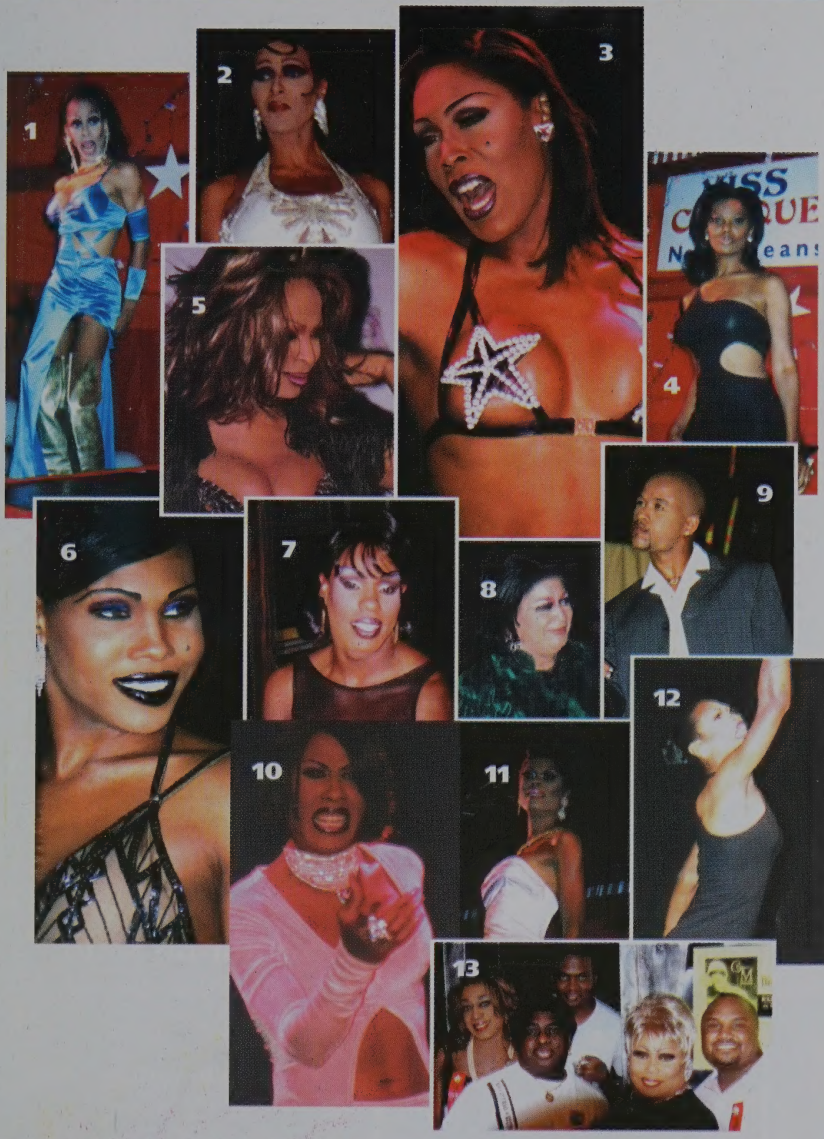

1) Former Miss Rascals, Tiffany Brooks 2) Miss Clikque Atlanta, Paula Sinclair 3) Former Miss Universe 98/99, Raquel Lord. 4) Paris Frantz Performing Miss Clikque New Orleans. 5) Miss National Shawnna Brooks. 6) The Beautiful Miss Traxx, Nikki Bonet. 7) Comedian, Sophia Macintosh. 8) Houston's Finest, Cookie LaCook. 9) Very Talented Former Mr. Universe 98/99, Monte St. James. 10) Clikque Cover Girl & Newly Crowned Miss Universe, Necole Luv Dupree. 11) Miss Clikque New Orleans, Terryl Lynn-Foxx. 12) The Lovely Stasha Sanchez. 13) Judges at The Recent Miss Clikque Atlanta

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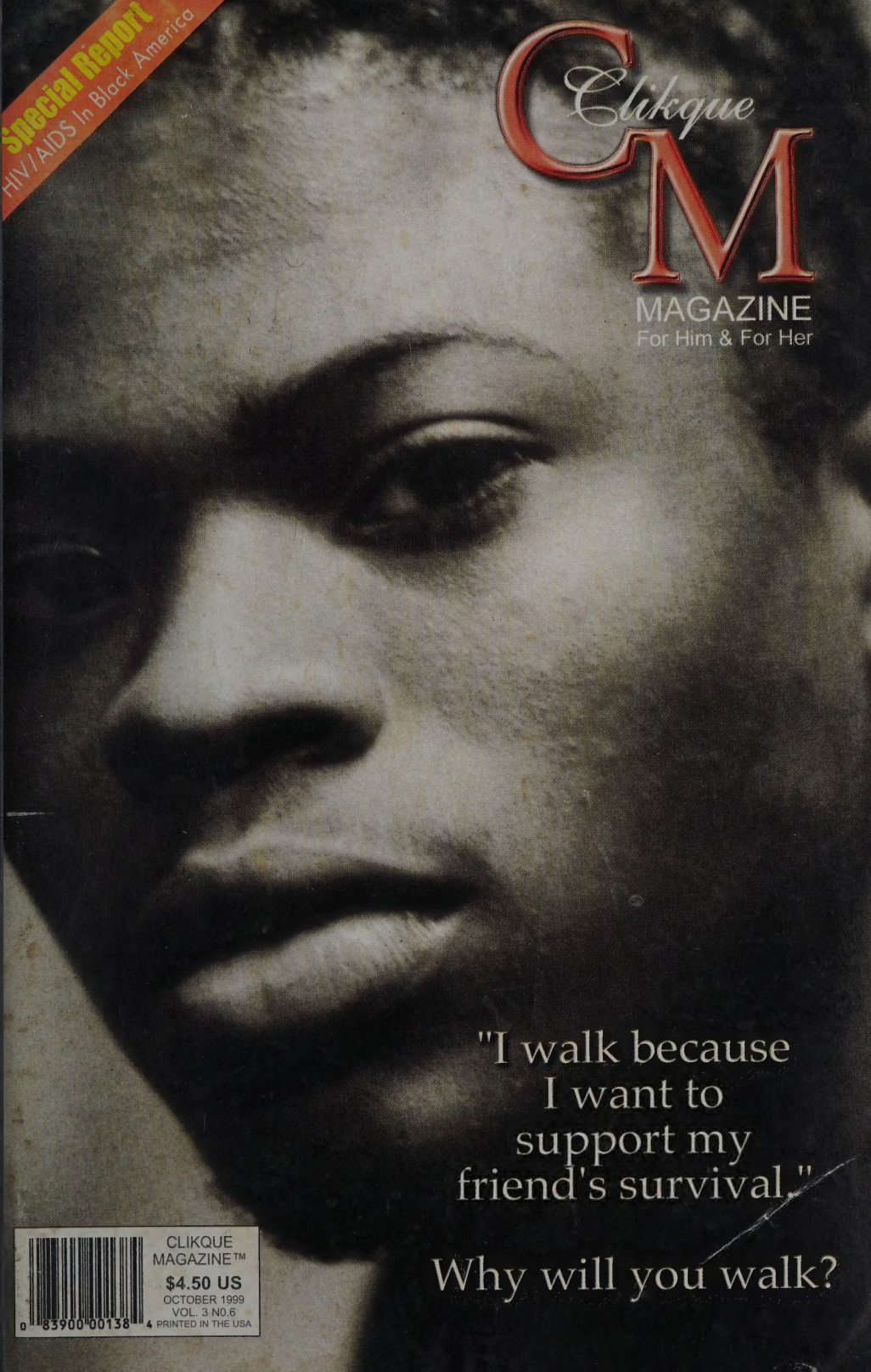

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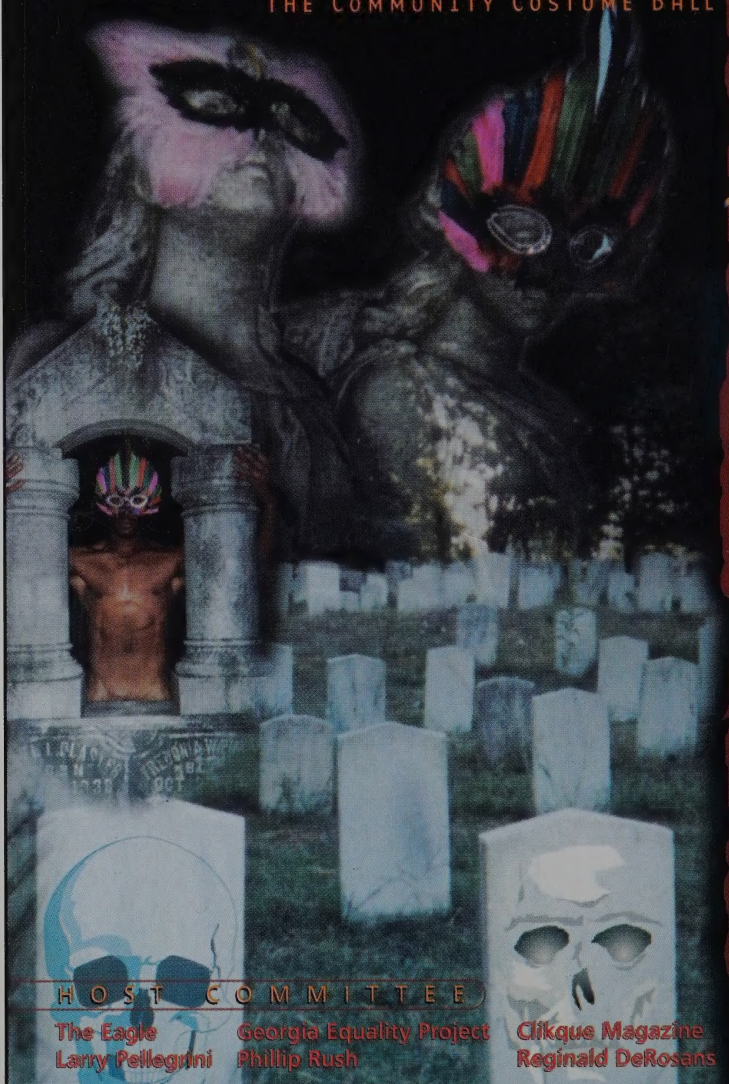

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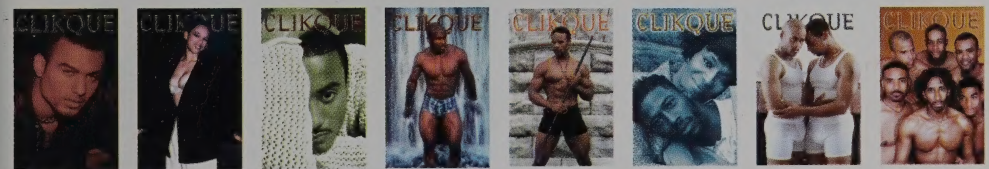

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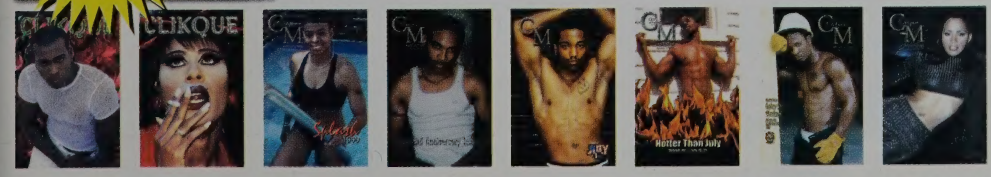

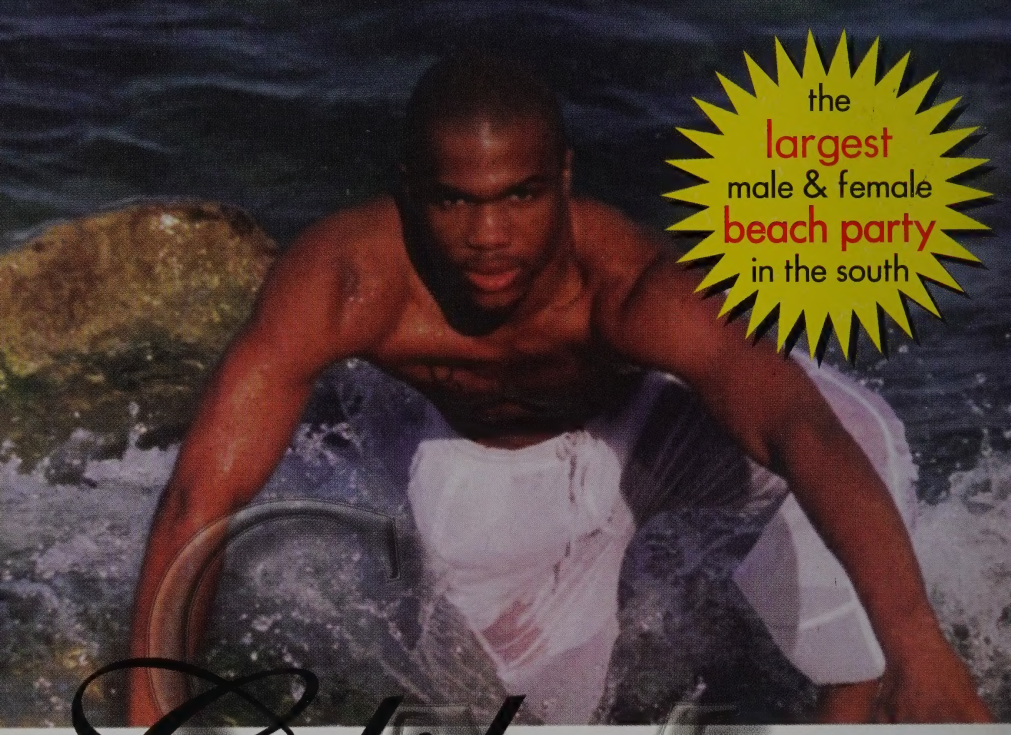

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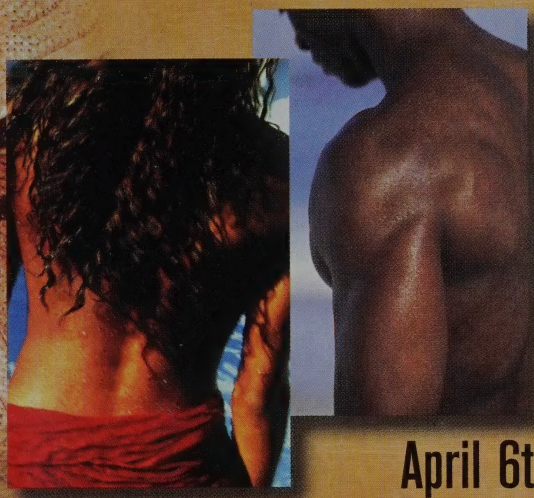

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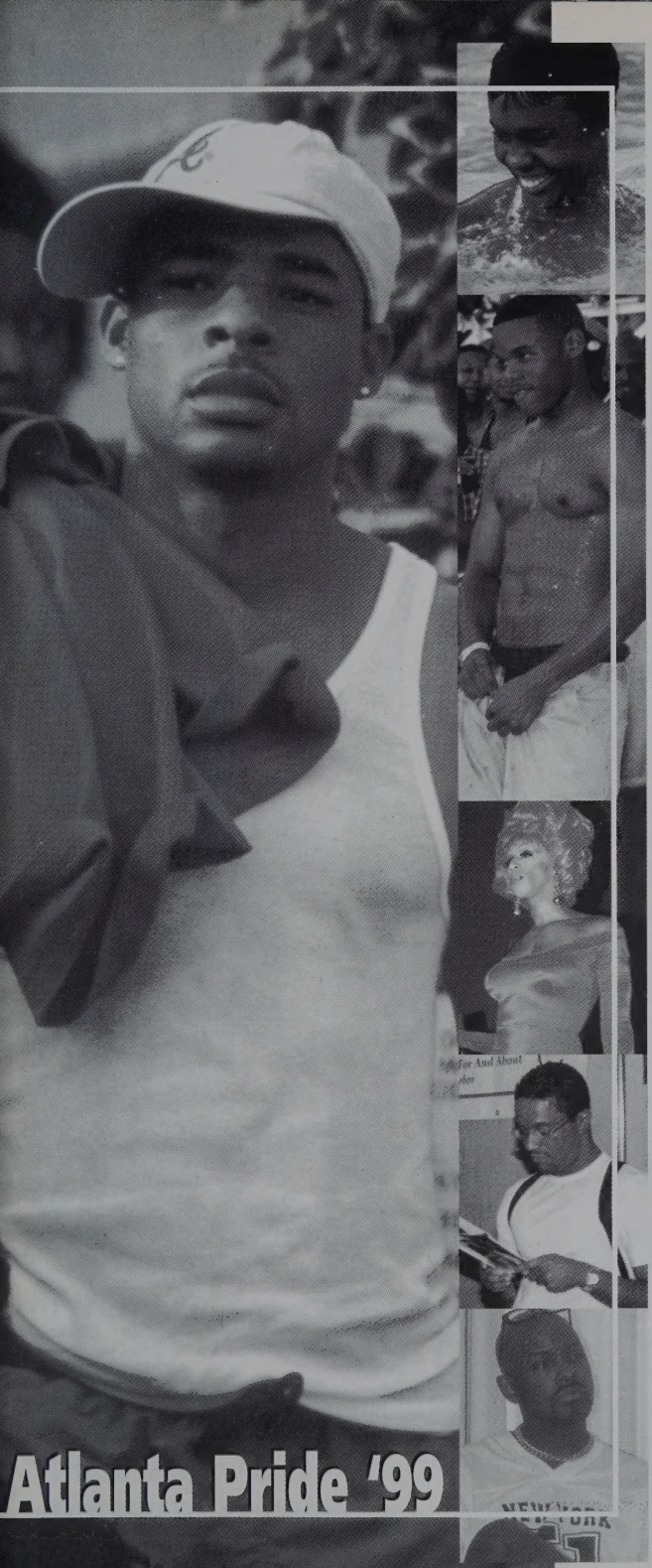

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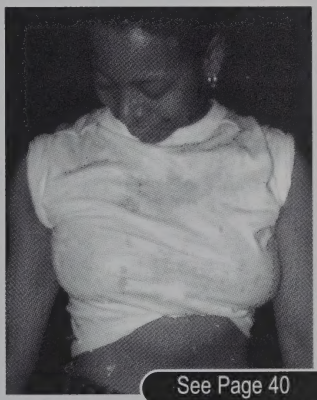

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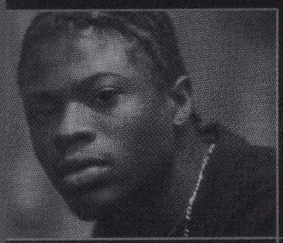
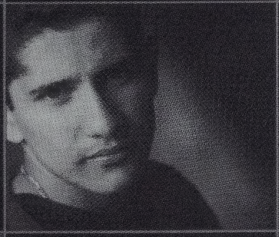
SUNDAY OCTOBER 17

I walk because...



"I promised my brother I would continue fighting until the end."

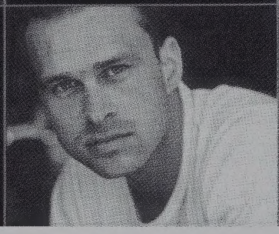
"I want to support my friend's survival."



"I don't care who's getting AIDS, just that so many still are."

"AIDS is still a crisis. Period."

"The new drugs are not 'miracles' for everybody."



"As a parent, I have to."

Why will you walk?

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MAGAZINE

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For This Walk, Clikque will be partnering with

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African-Americans make up over 80% of all AIDS cases in Georgia.

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Hello friends. By now, I am sure that you've noticed a sharp departure from our typical Clikque covers. Likewise, you will also discover that the content in this particular issue isn't, for the most part, your normal reading material either.

This month, we have embarked upon addressing a situation that has raged out of control in our African American communities: The dramatic increase in HIV & AIDS diagnoses over the past few years.

After reading this issue, you will be amazed and alarmed by the facts that we have presented. Facts from the Center For Disease Control (CDC), which alerts us that African Americans are dying from AIDS at a rate ten (10) times that of White Americans in this country. That, my friends, is something worth taking a good look at.

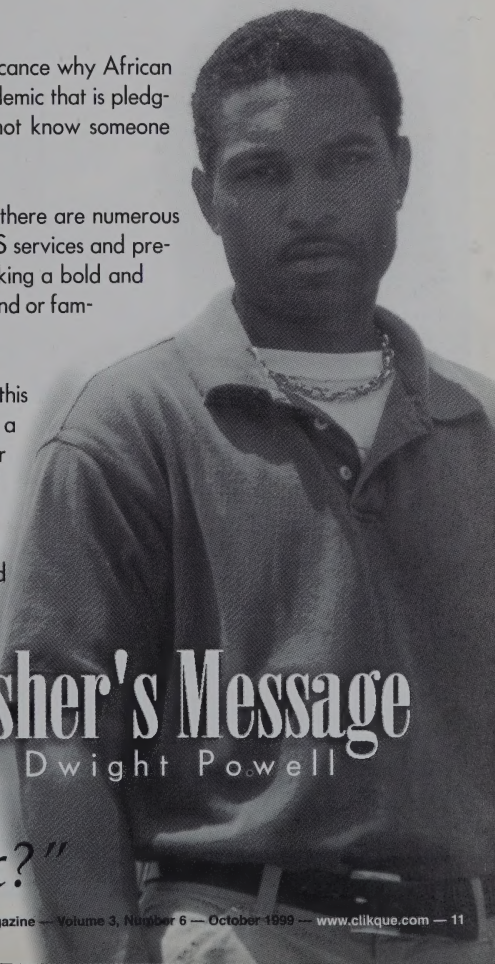
What must we do to correct this situation. Well for one, get up of our butts and be counted. We are still passively sitting in the passenger seat being driven to battles by people that don't even look like us. Remarkably, when we get to the battle grounds, we don't get out of the car. Why must we continue to have others fight our battles for us. Yes my friends a BATTLE. That is exactly what we are in, and when you're done with this magazine, I'm sure that you will agree with me.

It's not just the sissy, fag, dyke, homo, (whatever they call us) getting sick anymore. It's our mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, youth, and the young children that are being affected in astronomical proportions. Black women accounts for 67% of all new cases in this country. Are you awake yet? Well you should be!

I don't mean to preach, but merely to stress the significance why African Americans need to take the lead in combating this epidemic that is pledging us. There is probably not one of you that does not know someone dying or that has died due to AIDS complications

Throughout the year, in various parts of the country, there are numerous marathons/walk fundraisers benefiting local HIV/AIDS services and prevention providers. I challenge you be proactive by taking a bold and strong stand for yourself. Better yet, represent that friend or family member no longer with you because of AIDS.

While I acknowledge that a better way of dealing with this situation is via behavior modifications, taking part in a marathon shows the nation that we are willing to do our part in attacking this demon that has taken so many of our loved ones. Show the government and the CDC that you demand adequate funding to better aid affected individuals sustain a more dignified and humane existence.



Publisher's Message

Dwight Powell

"I will walk because I can!"

"Why will you walk?"

Clikque MAGAZINE

931 Monroe Drive, Suite 102-279,
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email: Clikquem@aol.com

PUBLISHER / EDITOR
Dwight Powell

COPY EDITOR
Darryl! L.C. Moch

OFFICE MANAGER /
COVER COORDINATOR
Nestor Zapata

ART DIRECTOR / GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dwight Powell

HIV / AIDS EDITORIALS
Don Sneed - Dallas, Tx.

MONTHLY COMMENTARY
Craig Washington - Atlanta, Ga.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Anthony Rucker - Gainesville, Fl.

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS
Scott Bogan - Atlanta, Ga.
Todd Edwards - Austin, Tx.

STAFF WRITERS
Parker Bridges- Atlanta, Ga.
Danny Chislom - Atlanta, Ga.
Queshan Hayes - Atlanta, Ga.
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Khalid Idawu - Atlanta, Ga.
Lee Jones - Louisville, Ky.
Dorian Kelley-Jahman - Atlanta, Ga.
Darryl! L.C. Moch- Atlanta, Ga.
Remmington Ross- Houston, Tx.
Victor J. Stewart- Atlanta, Ga.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Shurron Farmer- Washington, DC
Robert Raglin II- Spring, Tx.
Gregory Victorian- Chicago, IL
Andre Toney- Compton, Ca.
Eric Ezekiel- Lithonia, Ga.
Matthew Blathers- Atlanta, Ga.
Gena Alexander- Madison Heights, MI
Paris France- Atlanta, Ga.
M. Ari C.- Berkeley, Ca.
Kenny Omni- Chicago, IL
M. N.- Atlanta, Ga.
Jean Pierre Campbell
Amado Musa Lanai
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Dwight Powell, Nestor Zapata
CARTOONIST
Michael Christopher
OWNER / PUBLISHER Dwight Powell
CO-OWNER Nestor Zapata
MARKETING Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc
EVENTS COORDINATOR Victor J. Stewart
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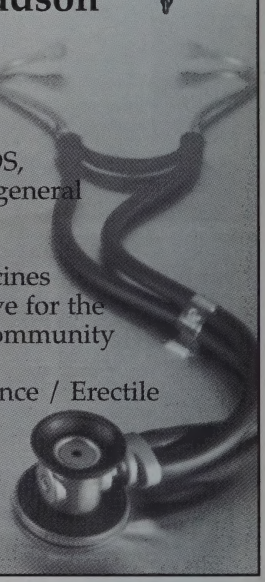

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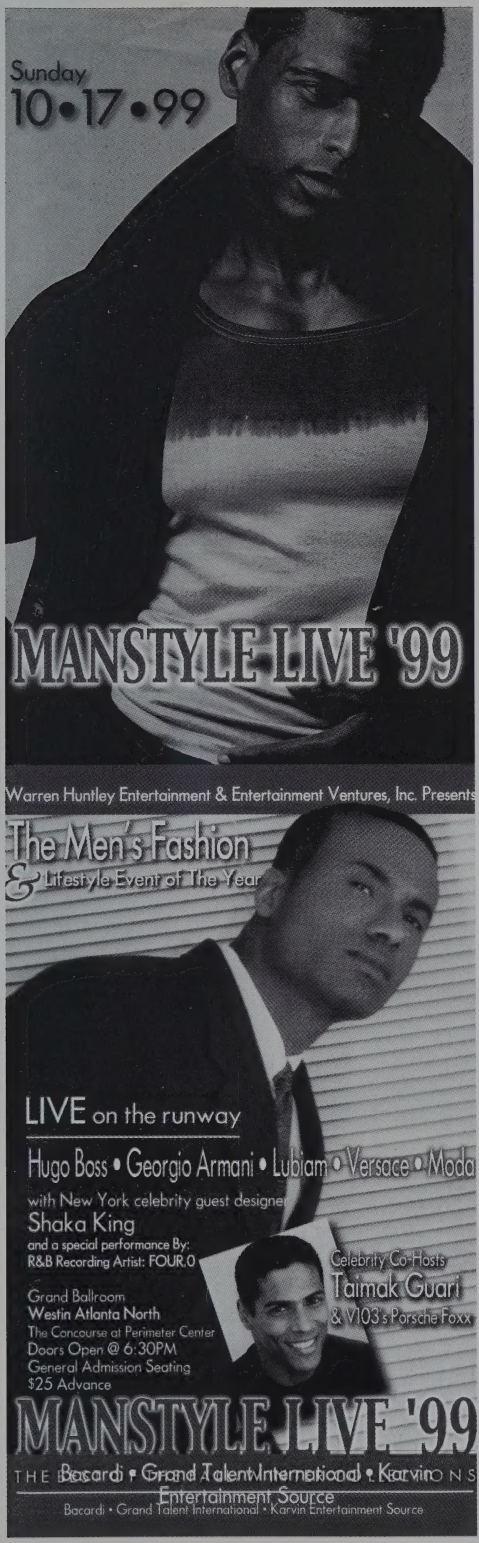
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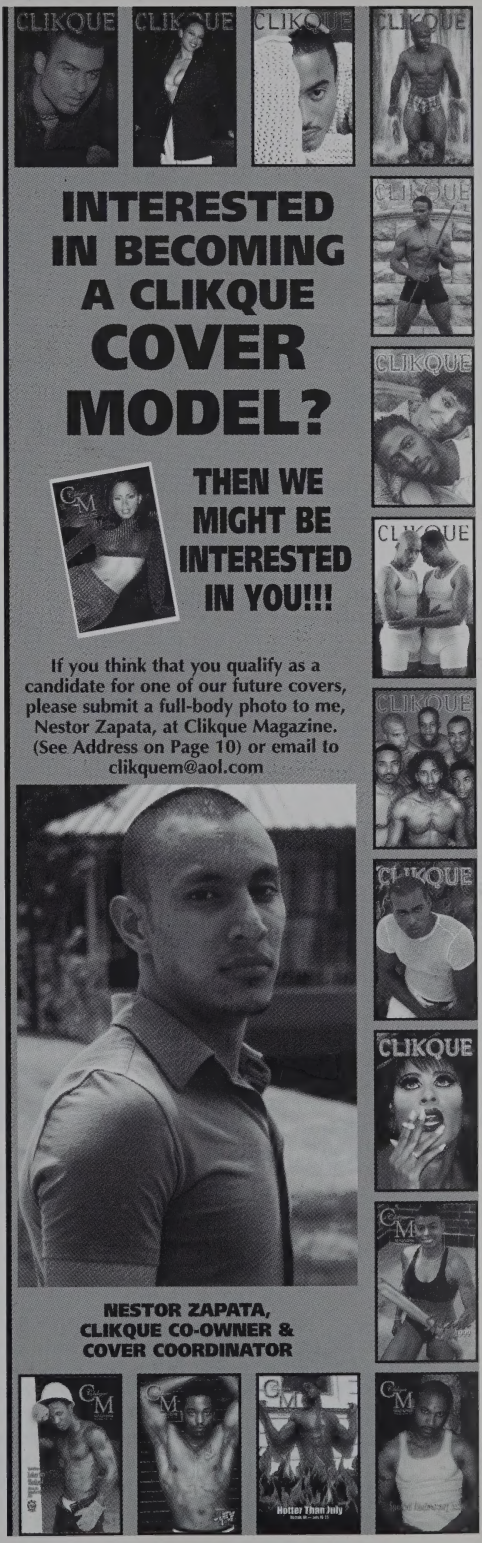
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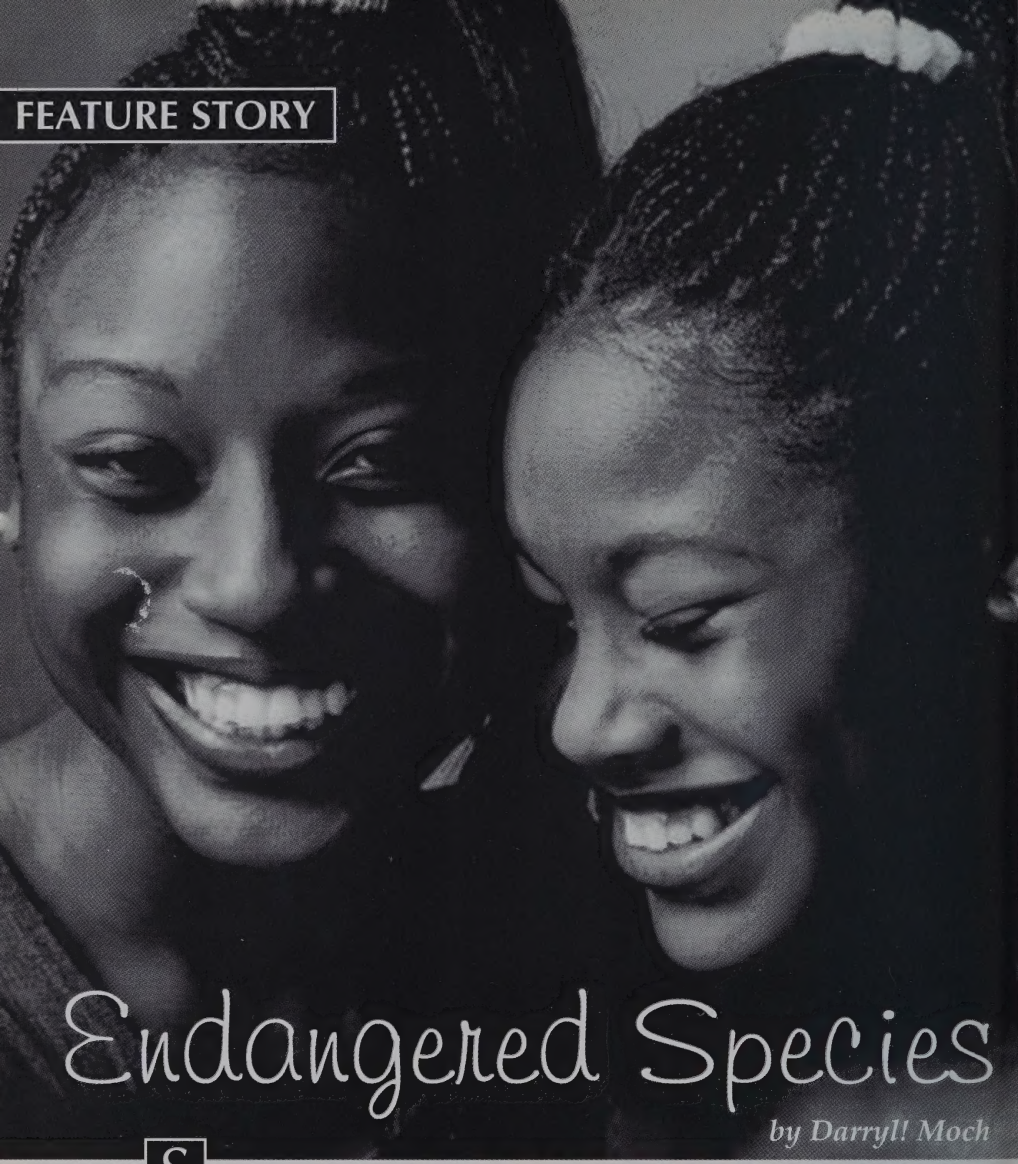

Endangered Species

by Darryl! Moch

Shall we fight for our lives or just drift into the sea of death and despair? Will you be content to huddle in the hull of the boat contemplating starting the engine, or using oars on the deck, or getting into the lifeboat already provided for you? We, as a nation of people, can choose to forge our own path or we can choose to look at the elements of safety, self-preservation and power over our situation and use them to our advantage or we can let them stay potent but useless.

This is like the fight against HIV/AIDS, especially for women. The opportunity exists that we can look at the realities if the situation and choose the mechanisms that bring life and safety or we can choose to ignore them and waste away in a sea of disease and deception. By now we are well aware of how HIV is transmitted and the difference between HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and AIDS (Acquired immunodeficiency Syndrome). HIV is transmitted through Blood, Semen, Vaginal Secretions, and Breast Milk. HIV is the infection that causes AIDS and AIDS is a result of infection with the virus known as HIV (American Red Cross). HIV causes AIDS and there is no cure for HIV and most people who contract HIV will eventually develop AIDS. People die from conditions associated with AIDS as a result of HIV infection. There is NO cure. There IS NO cure. THERE IS NO CURE!

African American's continue to see a dramatic rise in HIV infections, and the problems is on the rise not only among African American men who have sex with men (MSMs), but surprisingly (to some), at an even more alarming rate, also among the African American women who love them. Let's consider some more facts as we know them and then consider the reasons why.

With the facts staring us boldly in the face and challenging us to make a difference in our own lives we cannot sit around and pretend that the virus and disease do not penetrate to every sphere of our existence. We cannot sit idly by and expect that the great generosity of the government or society will ensure that we are safe or cured. The major movement of the HIV/AIDS community is to work towards further prevention with an emphasis on the manageability of the virus and its effects on persons living with it. **However, for the vast majority of African Americans, especially women, the epidemic continues to ravage and claim lives with astonishing ease. WHY? WHY? WHY?**

Have we not been listening to the messages of the last almost two decades? Have we pretended that as long as we were involved in heterosexual sex we were safe, regardless of the knowledge that men are commonly having sex with each other and then going home to wives, girlfriends, and regular-non committal sex partners? Have we forgotten that a large number of our brothers spend a portion of their lives in some form of incarceration and that sexual appetites have and are being satisfied in the secret caverns of confinement?

We know and understand that these same men/boys return to the sanctity of "their" women proving their manhood by the number of babies and sex partners they can brag about. Or do we not believe that gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual men and women often choose sexual relations for a variety of reasons? Sometimes to procreate, or to prove their "normal" status to disapproving family and friends, or in the worst cases to prove to their spiritual leaders that they have, in fact "changed" or been delivered from the grips of the most dastardly passions known to human kind?

Sometimes the reasons why and their ramifications can be as numerous and as elusive as the cure to this vile disease that plagues our world. But rather than searching the catacombs of our minds for reason why the epidemic continues to spread, let us create reality of life that does not promote the environment whereby our community continues to silently and voluntarily commit our own "communicide." "Communicide" being defined loosely as "a mass murdering/suicide of a community or people by their own behavior." Is it because the men do not get checked, do not use a condom, do not bother to inform their partners that they have been exposed- or participate in high-risk behaviors? Or because the partners do not ask, do not know their own status, do not require the use of condoms, or have chosen to passively or aggressively participate in behaviors that are putting them at risk for HIV transmission?

Sistas (and Brothas) the solutions are simple. We must stop hiding our heads in the sand of life pretending that HIV/AIDS is not plaguing us. We must not allow our leaders, political, religious, or otherwise, to ignore the problem or pretend that it effects only a select few and that those few must deserve it. No one is exempt from the possibility of contracting the virus. HIV/AIDS is an equal opportunity destroyer, it believes fully in the tenets of affirmative action. As the American Red Cross' states **"HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. People put themselves (and their unborn children) at risk of HIV infection by what they do NOT by who they are."**

It's like the game "Life," you spin the wheel and are forced to land on a space that tells you what has happened to you or what you have to do. In some instances there are choices you make (like choosing a career or college) but in others there are NO choices. Fortunately, this life we live is not a game, and we have nothing but choices- even choosing not to choose is a choice. HIV does not have to happen to anyone else; it does not have to happen to you, to me, or to the sista or brotha down the street, in the pew, or in the club. But the question remaining is what is your choice.

For more information on HIV/AIDS or other Womyn's health issues contact the

Office of Women's Health

Centers for Disease Control and prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS: D-51
Atlanta, GA 30033
(404) 639-7230; fax (404) 639-7331
Or web site: www.cdc.gov

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Our philosophy:

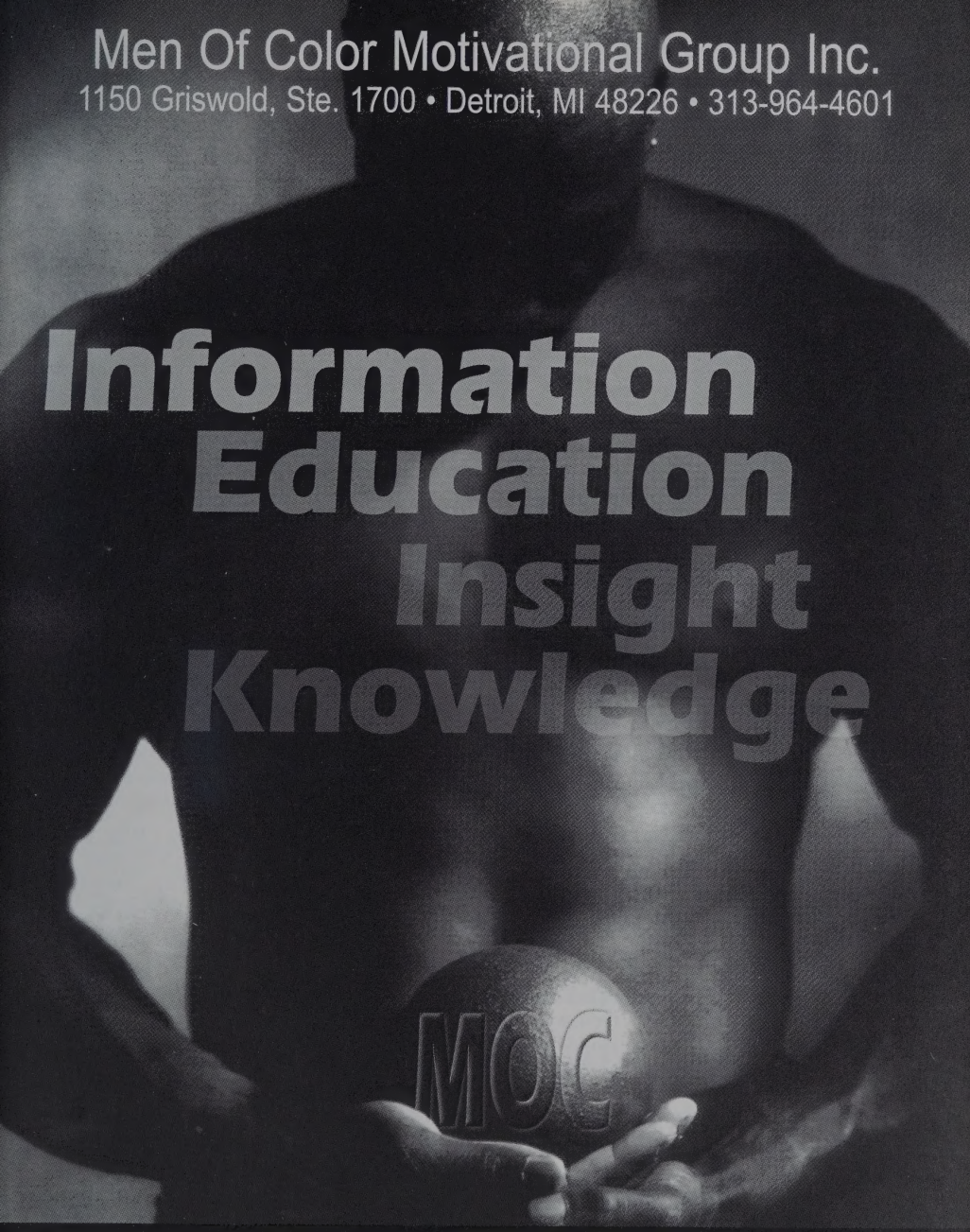
We believe that the best way to care for African-Americans against the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS is to reach them were they are.

You can't fight this disease from office buildings or executive suites. You can't expect the people to come to you; you have to go to them. Our mission is to significantly reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in our community. We are on the streets caring for drug addicts, hookers and male hustlers.

Office/Counseling Center 825 Cascade Ave., — 404-755-6700
Drop-In Center 291 Ashby Street — 404-522-1664

Men Of Color Motivational Group Inc.

1150 Griswold, Ste. 1700 • Detroit, MI 48226 • 313-964-4601



MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.

hiv/aids updates

By Don Sneed - Staff

Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: September 27, 1999 reporting from the Southwestern Front; Dallas, Texas. For many it is sundown in America and for a chosen few they stand on the horizon welcoming the dawn of a new day.

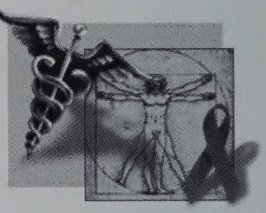
However, the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control paint a bleak picture for African Americans during this, belated, State of Health Emergency for HIV/AIDS. In 1998 for every one (1) white person that died from AIDS; ten (10) African Americans died of the disease. For every one (1) white person that was diagnosed with AIDS ten (10) African Americans were diagnosed with the syndrome. Finally, African Americans comprise 13% of the total population of these United States of America {united against and/or for whom?} yet we made up 49% of the total AIDS cases in this nation. When the 1999 figures are released **they will be worse**.

It kind of makes you feel like a third class passenger on the maiden voyage of the Titanic; a backseat rider in a car with the driver asleep at the wheel or dancing while the house is burning down. This is just the tip of the iceberg. The magnitude of this biological viral horror, for African Americans, is yet to be fully realized. What do we do?

We must open our eyes. Crack cocaine **is not** the most powerful narcotic in man's history. The most powerful, deadly and widely used drug in human history is **a lie**! It affects not only the mind but also the heart, body and souls. It is highly addictive and there is only one known cure: THE TRUTH. It has been said, by the first Manchild, that the truth shall make you free. I submit to you that the truth has the power to set you free from one thing only: the most powerful drug on Earth - a lie! If we, as a people, are to be free from this viral plague then we must, despite any and all pain, commence to tell the truth to ourselves and to one another. Then, and only then, can the freedom to heal be achieved. In time, you will come to know that AIDS is as much a disease of the mind and soul as it is the body!

Now embark with me upon this truth caravan: In black America AIDS is, fundamentally, a disease affecting men. In the South, my neck of the woods {and where the majority of Blacks in this nation still live} it is, fundamentally, a disease of men who are sexually intimate with other men. At ground zero of the disease you will find the Black man, who is **so-called gay**.

This Black man, who **is so-called gay**, is the least of all men in the eyes of his people, himself and this nation. I challenge you to take an honest look at the hierarchy of men in this nation. At the top you will find the Caucasian and the Jew battling it out for domination of this world and the next. As you work your way down the totem pole you will find just above the Black man, the Brown man {Hispanic/Latino}. The Black man, via an Age old conspiracy of circumstance and lies, has been delegated to the bottom of the heap of Humanity. The African nations and the Black men who lead them are considered to be the basket cases of all nations, peoples and continents. In America, within the hierarchy of Black men, the Black man, who is **so-called homosexual**, is the least, of the least, of men in this nation. This person has been told that he is an abomination and condemned to die and live an eternal afterlife of damnation, fire and brimstone. This person has lived, as an outcast or in fear of being an outcast, since his first awareness of his feelings for other men. The Black man, who is **so-called homosexual**, has been taught and conditioned, since childhood, to internalize the belief that he is spiritually disconnected, morally bankrupt and physically inferior to other Black men. This man is at the epicenter of the viral plague sweeping Black America and, thereby, holds the



key to our destruction or salvation. The first Manchild once foretold that the least, of the least, shall be the first, of the first.

Despite this impending African American sui-genocidal biochemical AIDS holocaust, the Black man, who is **so-called homosexual**, in his current state of spiritual, mental and physical being, has no incentive, avenue or heartfelt desire to slow this viral Titanic down. Because of the internalized worthlessness that he feels as a man; he perceives no lasting value in saving

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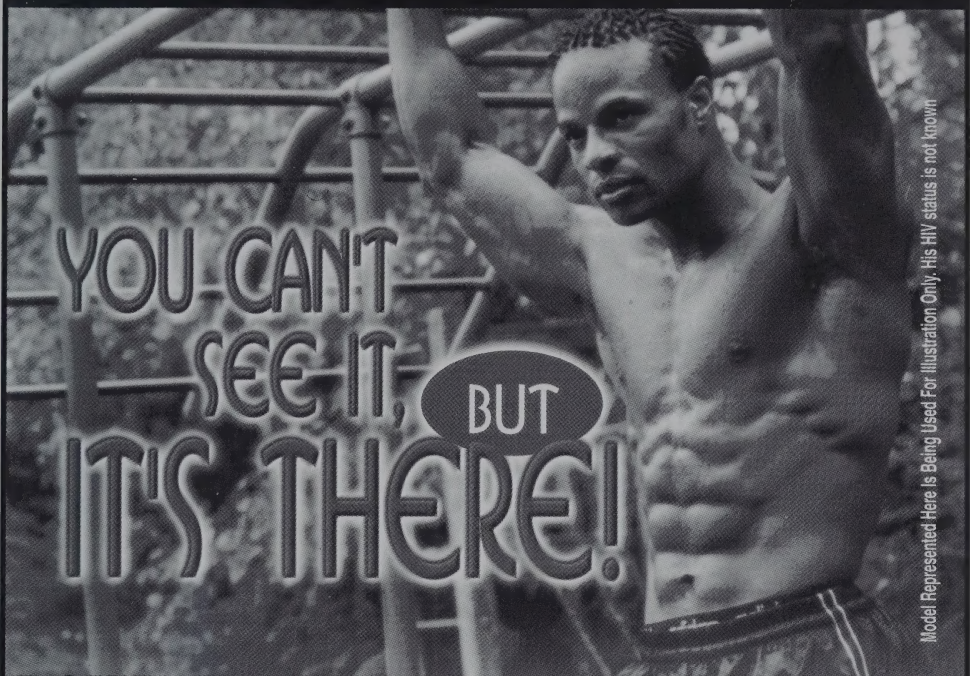
Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Model Represented Here Is Being Used For Illustration Only. His HIV status is not known

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

HIV Comes in various packages. There are white ones, black ones, big ones, small ones, short ones, tall ones, sexy ones, and not so sexy ones. You can't identify an HIV infected person by just looking at them. Therefore, always use a Latex Condom and a waterbased lubricant when intimate with that special person. When used properly, latex condoms are effective against HIV, STDs and Pregnancies

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Historical Black Colleges Tour

sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb

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at the Atlanta University Center

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Monday

October 18th

1-2PM
OPENING CEREMONIES
Woodruff Library
Keynote Speaker:
Mrs. Coretta Scott King

2-9PM - QUILT DISPLAY
2-5PM - EXHIBIT HALL HRS
2-5PM - QUILT MAKING
TBA - HIV/AIDS WORKSHOPS
6-8PM - RECEPTION
Woodruff Library
7:45-9PM - CANDLELIGHT MARCH

Tuesday

October 19th

9AM-9PM - QUILT DISPLAY
10AM-3PM - EXHIBIT HALL HRS
10AM-3PM - QUILT MAKING / STORYTELLING
TBA - HIV/AIDS WORKSHOPS
2-6PM - QUILT MAKING WORKSHOP
435 Ashby Street
6-8PM - GREEK/RADIO BASKETBALL GAME
Olympic Arena

Wednesday

October 20th

9AM-9PM - QUILT DISPLAY
10AM-5PM - EXHIBIT HALL HRS
10AM-3PM - QUILT MAKING / STORYTELLING
TBA - HIV/AIDS WORKSHOPS
6-7:30PM - CLOSING CEREMONIES
8-10:30PM - FASHION SHOW *(TENTATIVE)*
Clark Atlanta University

HIV Testing will be made available on-site. Times and Location TBA

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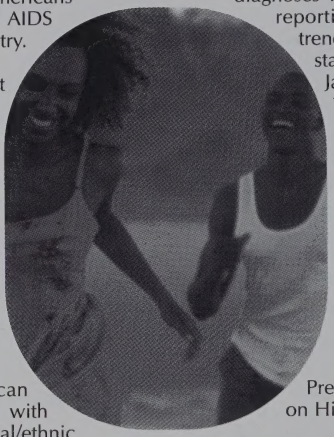
SPECIAL REPORT

THE STATE OF OUR NATION

HIV/AIDS Among African Americans

In the United States, the impact of HIV and AIDS in the African American community has been devastating. Through December 1998, CDC had received reports of 688,200 AIDS cases - of those, 251,408 cases occurred among African Americans. Representing only an estimated 12% of the total U.S. population, African Americans make up almost 37% of all AIDS cases reported in this country.

Researchers estimate that 240,000-325,000 African Americans - about 1 in 50 African American men and 1 in 160 African American women - are infected with HIV. Of those infected with HIV, it is estimated that more than 106,000 African Americans are living with AIDS.



In 1998, more African Americans were reported with AIDS than any other racial/ethnic group.

21,752 cases were reported among African Americans, representing nearly half (45%) of the 48,269 AIDS cases reported that year.

Almost two-thirds (62%) of all women reported with AIDS were African American.

African American children also represented almost two-thirds (62%) of all reported pediatric AIDS cases.

The 1998 rate of reported AIDS cases among African Americans was 66.4 per 100,000 population, more than 2 times greater than the rate for Hispanic and 8 times greater than the rate for whites.

HIV data from a CDC study comparing HIV and AIDS diagnoses in 25 states with integrated reporting systems show these trends are continuing. In these states, during the period from January 1994 through June 1997, African Americans represented a high proportion (45%) of all AIDS diagnoses, but an even greater proportion (57%) of all HIV diagnoses. And among young people (ages 13 to 24), 63% of the HIV diagnoses were among African Americans.

Prevention Efforts Must Focus on High Risk Behaviors

Adult/Adolescent Men- Among African American men with AIDS, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion (38%) of reported cases since the epidemic began. The second most common exposure category for African American men is injection drug use (35%), and heterosexual exposure accounts for 7% of cumulative cases.

Adult/Adolescent Women- Among African American women, injection drug use has accounted for 44% of all AIDS case reports since the epidemic began, with 37% due to heterosexual contact.

1 in 50
African American men are infected with HIV.

62%
Of all women reported with AIDS were African American

SPECIAL REPORT

THE STATE OF OUR NATION

HIV infection among U.S. women has increased significantly over the last decade, especially in communities of color. CDC estimates that, in the United States, between 120,000 and 160,000 adult and adolescent females are living with HIV infection, including those with AIDS.

Between 1992 and 1997, the number of persons living with AIDS increased in all groups, as a result of the 1993 expanded AIDS case definition and, more recently, improved survival among those who have benefited from the new combination drug therapies. During that 5-year period, a growing proportion of women were living with AIDS, reflecting the ongoing shift in populations affected by the epidemic. In 1992, women accounted for 13.8% of persons living with AIDS — by 1997, the proportion had grown to 19.1%.

HIV/AIDS Among Minority & Young Women

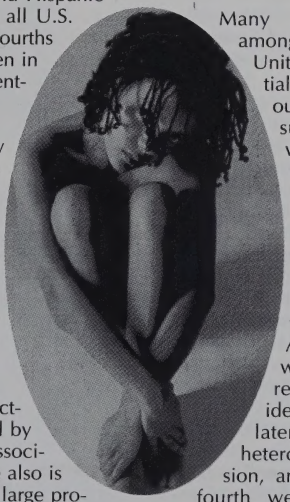
In just over a decade, the proportion of all AIDS cases reported among adult and adolescent women more than tripled,from 7% in 1985 to 23% in 1998. The epidemic has increased most dramatically among women of color. African American and Hispanic women together represent less than one-fourth of all U.S. women, yet they account for more than three-fourths (77%) of AIDS cases reported to date among women in our country. In 1998 alone, women of color represented an even higher proportion of cases.

While AIDS-related deaths among women are now decreasing, largely as a result of recent advances in HIV treatment, HIV/AIDS remains among the leading causes of death for U.S. women aged 25-44. And among African American women in this same age group, AIDS still results in more deaths than from any other cause.

Heterosexual Contact Is The Greatest Risk for Women

Sex with drug users plays large role

In 1998 most women reported with AIDS were infected through heterosexual exposure to HIV, followed by injection drug use. In addition to the direct risks associated with drug injection (sharing needles), drug use also is fueling the heterosexual spread of the epidemic. A large proportion of women infected heterosexually were infected through sex with an injection drug user. Reducing the toll of the epidemic among women will require efforts to combat substance abuse, in addition to reducing HIV risk behaviors.



Many HIV/AIDS cases among women in the United States are initially reported without risk information, suggesting that women may be unaware of their partners' risk factors or that health care providers are not documenting their risk. Historically, more than two-thirds of AIDS cases among women initially reported without identified risk were later reclassified as heterosexual transmission, and just over one-fourth were attributed to injection drug use.

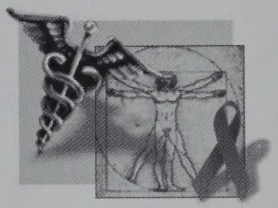
57% Of the 48,269 cases HIV diagnoses last year were African Americans

37% Of all cases ever reported in this United States were those of African American which represents Only 12% of the total U.S Population

HIV/AIDS Statistical Projections/Trends

Our nation is facing the most critical and devastating epidemic in recent history. HIV infection and the clinical complications that follow are placing a heavy strain on medical and social services in both the public and private sectors. HIV infection/AIDS is the second leading cause of death among adults ages 25-44.

The total number of infected persons in the United States is estimated to be from 650,000 to 900,000. This is equal to 0.3 percent of the U.S. population or approximately 1 in 300 Americans (all ages). In the United States approximately 1 in 160 males and 1 in 1,000 females of all ages, or approximately 1 in 160 adult and adolescent (ages 13 and over) males and approximately 1 in 800 adult and adolescent females are infected with HIV.



Surveillance for AIDS began in 1981, following recognition of the first cases of unexplained severe immunosuppression and the resulting opportunistic illnesses. The AIDS surveillance case definition for adolescents and adults was expanded in 1985 and again in 1993 to reflect increased knowledge of the natural history of HIV infection and to remain consistent with the clinical management of HIV disease.

During 1998 the following characteristics of persons reported with AIDS have been observed: Through December 31, 1998, a cumulative total of 688,200 persons with AIDS had been reported to CDC. The 688,200 cumulative reported AIDS cases included:
- 679,739 adolescents and adults,
- 570,425 men,
- 109,311 women,
- and 8,461 children less than 13 years of age. A total of 410,800 of the 688,200 persons reported with AIDS have died.

Among men and women who have been reported with AIDS, three HIV exposure groups continue to account for nearly all cases of AIDS:
- men who have sex with men - 48 percent
- injection drug use - 26 percent
- and heterosexual contact, primarily through sexual contact with injecting drug users - 10 percent

Nearly all of the pediatric AIDS cases reported, over 90 percent, resulted from perinatal HIV transmission.

Until recently, CDC primarily reported trends in the epidemic based on the estimated number of people diagnosed with AIDS each year (AIDS incidence). AIDS incidence provided a reliable picture of trends in the HIV epidemic because researchers could take into account the time between HIV infection and progression to AIDS and estimate where and how many new infections were occurring based on observed cases of disease. But, with recent advances in the treatment of HIV infection that have slowed the progression from HIV infection to AIDS and from AIDS to death, AIDS incidence can no longer be used alone to track the path of the HIV epidemic. While AIDS cases and deaths will provide a valuable measure of groups for whom effective treatment is not available or has not succeeded, these data tell us little about where and how many new infections are occurring—information critical for addressing the increasing need for prevention and treatment services. To analyze recent trends in the epidemic, CDC must therefore rely on data from the states that have so far integrated HIV and AIDS reporting systems for adults and adolescents.

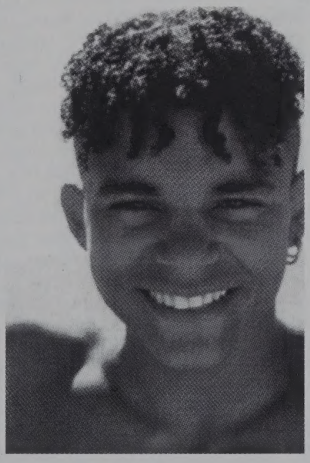
CDC recently examined trends in HIV diagnoses reported through the integrated HIV and AIDS reporting systems in 25 states, adjusted for reporting delays. The analysis suggests that contrary to the declining trend in AIDS diagnoses, HIV diagnoses remain relatively stable in these states, with an increasing toll on women and minorities. The data also indicate a continuing toll among young people ages 13-24, with at least 2,000 young people diagnosed with HIV in these states every year.

Many of these new diagnoses are occurring among African Americans, women, and people infected heterosexually, with an increase observed among Hispanic. From January 1994 through June 1997, a total of 72,905 adults and adolescents were diagnosed with HIV or AIDS in these states. Of these, 52,690 (or 72% of the total cases) were initially diagnosed with HIV, compared with 20,215 cases (28%) initially diagnosed with AIDS.

While these newer data provide a reliable indication of the number and characteristics of individuals who have been diagnosed with HIV in confidential settings, they do not include individuals tested only at anonymous test sites or individuals who have not yet been tested. CDC estimates that two-thirds of people living with HIV infection have already been confidentially tested for HIV and know their status. Studies indicate that a high proportion of high-risk individuals have been tested, and given the increasing benefits of early knowledge of HIV status, it is likely that testing will increase. HIV reporting will therefore become increasingly representative of trends in new infections. As additional states implement HIV reporting, these data will become more representative of national trends in the epidemic.

HIV/AIDS America's Young People At Risk

In the United States, HIV-related death has the greatest impact on young and middle-aged adults, particularly racial and ethnic minorities. HIV is the fifth leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. Among African American men and women in this age group, however, it is the leading cause of death. Many of these young adults likely were infected as teenagers. It is estimated that at least half of all new HIV infections in the United States are among people under 25, and the majority of young people are infected sexually.



In 1998, 1,798 young people (ages 13 to 24) were reported with AIDS, bringing the cumulative total to 27,860 cases of AIDS in this age group. Among 13- to 24-year-olds, 51% of all AIDS cases reported among males in 1998 were among young men who have sex with men (MSM); 10% were among injection drug users (IDUs); and 9% were among young men infected heterosexually. In 1998, among young women the same age, 47% were infected heterosexually and 14% were IDUs. Among both males and females in this age group, the proportion of cases with exposure risk not reported or identified (22% for males and 39% for females) will decrease as follow-up investigations are completed and cases are reclassified into other categories.

A CDC study that analyzed data from 25 states with integrated HIV and AIDS reporting systems for the period between January 1994 and June 1997 found that young people (aged 13 to 24) accounted for a much greater proportion of HIV than AIDS cases. The study also showed that even though AIDS incidence (the number of new cases diagnosed during a given time period, usually a year) is declining, there has not been a comparable decline in the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases among youth.

Scientists believe that cases of HIV infection reported among 13-to 24-year-olds are indicative of overall trends in HIV incidence (the number of new infections in a given time period, usually a year) because this age group has more recently initiated high-risk behaviors. Females made up nearly half (48%) of HIV cases in this age group reported from the 30 areas with confidential HIV reporting for adults and adolescents in 1998—and in young people between the ages of 13 and 19, a much greater proportion of HIV infections was reported among females (62%) than among males (38%). Cumulatively, young African Americans are most heavily affected, accounting for 56% of all HIV cases ever reported in this age group in these 30 areas.

HIV/AIDS 101

HIV/AIDS How HIV Is Transmitted

Research has revealed a great deal of valuable medical, scientific, and public health information about the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The ways in which HIV can be transmitted have been clearly identified. Unfortunately, false information or statements that are not supported by scientific findings continue to be shared widely through the Internet or popular press. Therefore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has prepared this fact sheet to correct a few misperceptions about HIV.

Transmition

HIV is spread by sexual contact with an infected person, by sharing needles and/or syringes (primarily for drug injection) with someone who is infected, or (rarely in countries where blood is screened for HIV antibodies), through transfusions of infected blood or blood clotting factors. Babies born to HIV-infected women may become infected before or during birth or through breast-feeding after birth.

In the health care setting, workers have been infected with HIV after being stuck with needles containing HIV-infected blood or, less frequently, after infected blood gets into a worker's open cut or a mucous membrane (for example, the eyes or inside of the nose). There has been only one instance of patients being infected by a health care worker in the United States; this involved HIV transmission from one infected dentist to six patients. Investigations have been completed involving more than 22,000 patients of 63 HIV-infected physicians, surgeons, and dentists, and no other cases of this type of transmission have been identified in the United States.

Some people fear that HIV might be transmitted in other ways; however, no scientific evidence to support any of these fears has been found. If HIV were being transmitted through other routes (such as through air, water, or insects), the pattern of reported AIDS cases would be much different from what has been observed. For example, if mosquitoes could transmit HIV infection, many more young children and preadolescents would have been diagnosed with AIDS.

All reported cases suggesting new or potentially unknown routes of transmission are thoroughly investigated by state and local health departments with the assistance, guidance, and laboratory support from CDC. No additional routes of transmission have been recorded, despite a national sentinel system designed to detect just such an occurrence.

The following paragraphs specifically address some of the common misperceptions about HIV transmission.

HIV in the Environment

Scientists and medical authorities agree that HIV does not survive well in the environment, making the possibility of environmental transmission remote. HIV is found in varying concentrations or amounts in blood, semen, vaginal fluid, breast milk, saliva, and tears. (See page 3, Saliva, Tears, and Sweat.) To obtain data on the survival of HIV, laboratory studies have required the use of artificially high concentrations of laboratory-grown virus. Although these unnatural concentrations of HIV can be kept alive for days or even weeks under precisely controlled and limited laboratory conditions, CDC studies have shown that drying of even these high concentrations of HIV reduces the amount of infectious virus by 90 to 99 percent within several hours. Since the HIV concentrations used in laboratory studies are much higher than those actually found in blood or other specimens, drying of HIV-infected human blood or other body fluids reduces the theoretical risk of environmental transmission to that which has been observed to essentially zero. Incorrect interpretation of conclusions drawn from laboratory studies have unnecessarily alarmed some people.

Results from laboratory studies should not be used to assess specific personal risk of infection because (1) the amount of virus studied is not found in human specimens or elsewhere in nature, and (2) no one has been identified as infected with HIV due to contact with an environmental surface. Additionally, except under laboratory conditions, HIV is unable to reproduce outside its living host (unlike many bacteria or fungi, which may do so under suitable conditions) therefore, it does

Continues on next page

HIV/AIDS 101

HIV/AIDS How HIV Is Transmitted

not spread or maintain infectiousness outside its host.

Households

Although HIV has been transmitted between family members in a household setting, this type of transmission is very rare. These transmissions are believed to have resulted from contact between skin or mucous membranes and infected blood. To prevent even such rare occurrences, precautions, as described in previously published guidelines, should be taken in all setting "including the home" to prevent exposures to the blood of persons who are HIV infected, at risk for HIV infection, or whose infection and risk status are unknown. For example,

Gloves should be worn during contact with blood or other body fluids that could possibly contain visible blood, such as urine, feces, or vomit. Cuts, sores, or breaks on both the care giver's and patient's exposed skin should be covered with bandages. Hands and other parts of the body should be washed immediately after contact with blood or other body fluids, and surfaces soiled with blood should be disinfected appropriately. Practices that increase the likelihood of blood contact, such as sharing of razors and toothbrushes, should be avoided. Needles and other sharp instruments should be used only when medically necessary and handled according to recommendations for health-care settings. (Do not put caps back on needles by hand or remove needles from syringes. Dispose of needles in puncture-proof containers

Businesses and Other Settings

There is no known risk of HIV transmission to co-workers, clients, or consumers from contact in industries such as food-service establishments (see information on survival of HIV in the environment). Food-service workers known to be infected with HIV need not be restricted from work unless they have other infections or illnesses (such as diarrhea or hepatitis A) for which any food-service worker, regardless of HIV infection status, should be restricted. CDC recommends that all food-service workers follow recommended standards and practices of good personal hygiene and food sanitation.

In 1985, CDC issued routine precautions that all personal-service workers (such as hairdressers, barbers, cosmetologists, and massage therapists) should follow, even though there is no evidence of transmission from a personal-service worker to a client or vice versa. Instruments that are intended to penetrate the skin (such as tattooing and acupuncture needles, ear piercing devices) should be used once and disposed of or thoroughly cleaned and sterilized. Instruments not intended to penetrate the skin but which may become contaminated with blood (for example, razors) should be used for only one client and disposed of or thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use. Personal-service workers can use the same cleaning procedures that are recommended for health care institutions.

CDC knows of no instances of HIV transmission through tattooing or body piercing, although hepatitis B virus has been transmitted during some of these practices. One case of HIV transmission from acupuncture has been documented. Body piercing (other than ear piercing) is relatively new in the United States, and the medical complications for body piercing appear to be greater than for tattoos. Healing of piercings generally will take weeks, and sometimes even months, and the pierced tissue could conceivably be abraded (torn or cut) or inflamed even after healing. Therefore, a theoretical HIV transmission risk does exist if the unhealed or abraded tissues come into contact with an infected person's blood or other infectious body fluid. Additionally, HIV could be transmitted if instruments contaminated with blood are not sterilized or disinfected between clients.

Kissing

Casual contact through closed-mouth or "social" kissing is not a risk for transmission of HIV. Because of the potential for contact with blood during "French" or open-mouth kissing, CDC recommends against engaging in this activity with a person known to be infected. However, the risk of acquiring HIV during open-mouth kissing is believed to be very low. CDC has investigated only one case of HIV infection that may be attributed to contact with blood during open-mouth kissing.

Biting

In 1997, CDC published findings from a state health department investigation of an incident that suggested blood-to-blood transmission of HIV by a human bite. There have been other reports in the medical literature in which HIV appeared to have been transmitted by a bite. Severe trauma with extensive tissue tearing and damage and presence of blood were reported in each of these instances. Biting is not a common way of transmitting HIV. In fact, there are numerous reports of bites that did not result in HIV infection.

Saliva, Tears, and Sweat

HIV has been found in saliva and tears in very low quantities from some people living with AIDS. It is important to understand that finding a small amount of HIV in a body fluid does not necessarily

Continues on next page

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mean that HIV can be transmitted by that body fluid. HIV has not been recovered from the sweat of HIV-infected persons. Contact with saliva, tears, or sweat has never been shown to result in transmission of HIV.

Insects

From the onset of the HIV epidemic, there has been concern about transmission of the virus by biting and bloodsucking insects. However, studies conducted by researchers at CDC and elsewhere have shown no evidence of HIV transmission through insects—even in areas where there are many cases of AIDS and large populations of insects such as mosquitoes. Lack of such outbreaks, despite intense efforts to detect them, supports the conclusion that HIV is not transmitted by insects.

The results of experiments and observations of insect biting behavior indicate that when an insect bites a person, it does not inject its own or a previously bitten person's or animal's blood into the next person bitten. Rather, it injects saliva, which acts as a lubricant or anticoagulant so the insect can feed efficiently. Such diseases as yellow fever and malaria are transmitted through the saliva of specific species of mosquitoes. However, HIV lives for only a short time inside an insect and, unlike organisms that are transmitted via insect bites, HIV does not reproduce (and does not survive) in insects. Thus, even if the virus enters a mosquito or another sucking or biting insect, the insect does not become infected and cannot transmit HIV to the next human it feeds on or bites. HIV is not found in insect feces.

There is also no reason to fear that a biting or bloodsucking insect, such as a mosquito, could transmit HIV from one person to another through HIV-infected blood left on its mouth parts. Two factors serve to explain why this is so—first, infected people do not have constant, high levels of HIV in their bloodstreams and, second, insect mouth parts do not retain large amounts of blood on their surfaces. Further, scientists who study insects have determined that biting insects normally do not travel from one person to the next immediately after ingesting blood. Rather, they fly to a resting place to digest this blood meal.

Effectiveness of Condoms

Condoms are classified as medical devices and are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Condom manufacturers in the United States test each latex condom for defects, including holes, before it is packaged. The proper and consistent use of latex or polyurethane (a type of plastic) condoms when engaging in sexual intercourse—vaginal, anal, or oral—can greatly reduce a person's risk of acquiring or transmitting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection.

There are many different types and brands of condoms available—however, only latex or polyurethane condoms provide a highly effective mechanical barrier to HIV. In laboratories, viruses occasionally have been shown to pass through natural membrane ("skin" or lambskin) condoms, which may contain natural pores and are therefore not recommended for disease prevention (they are documented to be effective for contraception). Women may wish to consider using the female condom when a male condom cannot be used. Female condom is NOT recommended for MSM and sex.

For condoms to provide maximum protection, they must be used consistently (every time) and correctly. Several studies of correct and consistent condom use clearly show that latex condom breakage rates in this country are less than 2 percent. Even when condoms do break, one study showed that more than half of such breaks occurred prior to ejaculation.

When condoms are used reliably, they have been shown to prevent pregnancy up to 98 percent of the time among couples using them as their only method of contraception. Similarly, numerous studies among sexually active people have demonstrated that a properly used latex condom provides a high degree of protection against a variety of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection.
For more detailed information about condoms, see the CDC publication "Facts about Condoms and Their Use in Preventing HIV Infection and Other STDs."

CDC's Response

CDC is committed to providing the scientific community and the public with accurate and objective information about HIV infection and AIDS. It is vital that clear information on HIV infection and AIDS be readily available to help prevent further transmission of the virus and to allay fears and prejudices caused by misinformation. For a complete description of CDC's HIV/AIDS prevention programs, see "Facts about CDC's Role in HIV and AIDS Prevention."

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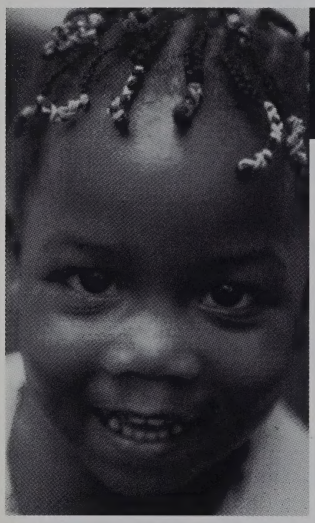
Various Contributors

How do you feel about Gays & Having/Raising A Child?



Welcome To The Second Installation Of Clikque Magazine's Topic Of The Month. Each Month We Will Attempt To Bring You Thought-provoking Topics. We hope that you will be enlighten and informed.

Your topic of the month is a very controversial one, and one that should be address more often, so that society can learn to accept what is naturally going to happen.

I am a straight, white woman, with no children, involved with a black man with two small children. I am unable to have children, and do intend to adopt a child when the time is right.

There are too many children in this world with no parents, and no one to show them love on an unconditional basis. No where is it written that parents are to be male and female. If you can love a child, raise a child correctly, be there for that child, then why can't you have one. No matter who your partner is!!!!!!

We are getting ready to enter into a new century, society needs to open it's mind and realize that there are children out there that they don't want to take care of, but apparently they don't what anyone else to take care of either. Telling someone that they can't raise a child, and love a child and such, just because they are gay is absolutely crazy. Those children that are in foster homes and on the streets selling themselves to survive may not have to be in those situations, if they just had someone to show them love.

Thanks you the opportunity to let my feelings out, and for having such a wonderful magazine, which in all reality should not be for just the Black Gay Community. This magazine has been very inspirational and informative. It should be read by all.

Thanks Again

A gay couple raising a Child: Man, what a hot topic! As the barrier of discrimination continue to fall in American society, I believe that it is only a matter of time until this happens. The last barrier of discrimination is that of sexual orientation When raising a child, I believe there are two things that child needs to see and feel from their parents. These two things are love and more love. In those households (straight) where there is little or no love, the child is harmed. We know that a child can learn love from either "mom" or "dad" or both. Thus the question that begs to be asked is, can the child learn from "dad" and "dad" or "mom" and "mom"? I say yes. Therefore, we can assume a child raised by either a gay or lesbian couple will be loved and learn how to love themselves and others.

Robert Raglin II, Spring, TX

Well, I do think that being gay has it's problems and that Gay Couples shouldn't raise a child unless A) It's already there child and the mother is out to lunch or B) They raise a gay teen that needs some positive guidance.....etc.. things of this nature.. but in honesty. A child needs two parents both male and female..... it really does make a difference.

Andre Toney, Compton, CA

I am confident that a SGL couple or person can rear a child just as well as a heterosexual couple and/or person. A person's sexual preference/orientation should not be a bearing on their ability to rear children, as long as they are being properly nurtured, efficiently financially taken care of, and being taught strong moral values. Regardless of a person decision to choose a partner of the same gender or the opposite gender, if you have the ability and financial resources to rear a child, then I feel that you should be afforded the opportunity. We as a society need

to let go of the hang-ups we have with people's sexual preferences and transferring that decision to every other aspect of that person's life.

Eric Ezekiel, Lithonia, GA

Hi there, it is in my option that as long as the parents love the child and that child is being brought up in a loving caring home with people who are honest with themselves as well as with the child and letting the child grow up knowing that yes I'm gay and I'm your father. To give, that is the thing that will make a difference to the child. We as a society have so many "rules and regulations" that we are supposed to go by that if we went by them we would be dead before we knew that we had lived. I have no children however I'm close to 2 of my friends children and they feel the same way that I do I love their kids, however, I also know that society would try to take the kid away from me and that would hurt the child more than help the child. We must learn how to say sweep around your own back door before you try to sweep around mine.

Matthew Blathers, Atlanta, Ga

Because many persons in society view homosexuality has either a sinful and/or disgusting act in the sight of the Creator and Man, it's not very surprising that there exist people who wouldn't want to see children raised by parents of the same gender. In my opinion, committed couples (heterosexual or non-heterosexual) should have the right to raise children.

I feel that in order for society to recognize the love gay people have for the youth of the world, several initiatives must take place and/or continue to be practiced:

1. One's attraction to someone else (be it homosexual or otherwise) is not sinful and sexuality is something that should celebrated before the LORD, for it's the LORD who created sex and sexuality in all people. Furthermore, one must recognize the difference between attraction and lust.

2. If the children raised by gay couples are non-heterosexual, then what better environment for the child to be in than one in which the child can learn about how GOD made him/her to be what He has them to be?

3. If the children raised by gay couples are heterosexual, then society must understand that it's not the intent of gay couples to produce more gay people. That is, gay couples are not out to convert heterosexuals to homosexuals and vice versa.

4. The non-heterosexual community must redefine the lifestyle that is based on non-heterosexuality in such a way that non-heterosexuals will not be perceived as or portray themselves as ravenous sexual predators who rebel against societal norms because of oppression.

5. There are many children of gay couples who, like their gay parents, are non-dysfunctional contributing

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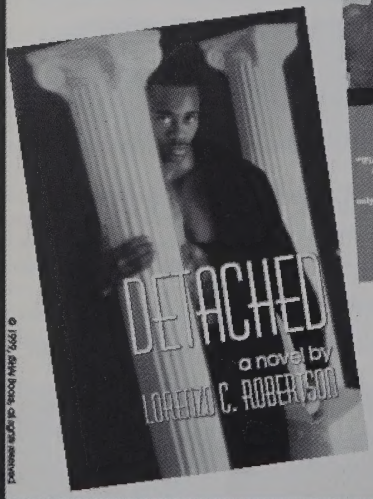

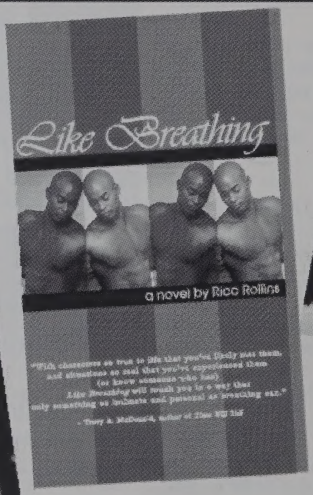

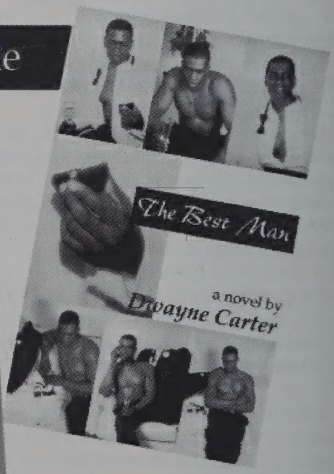

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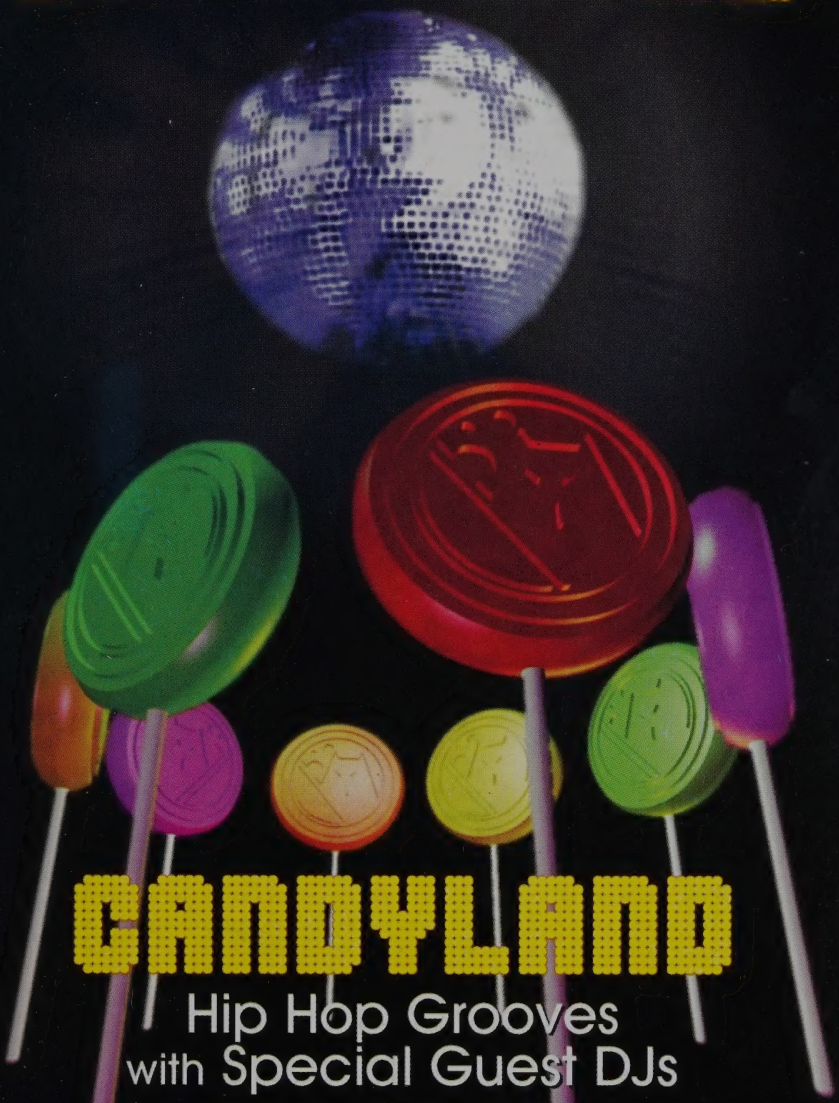

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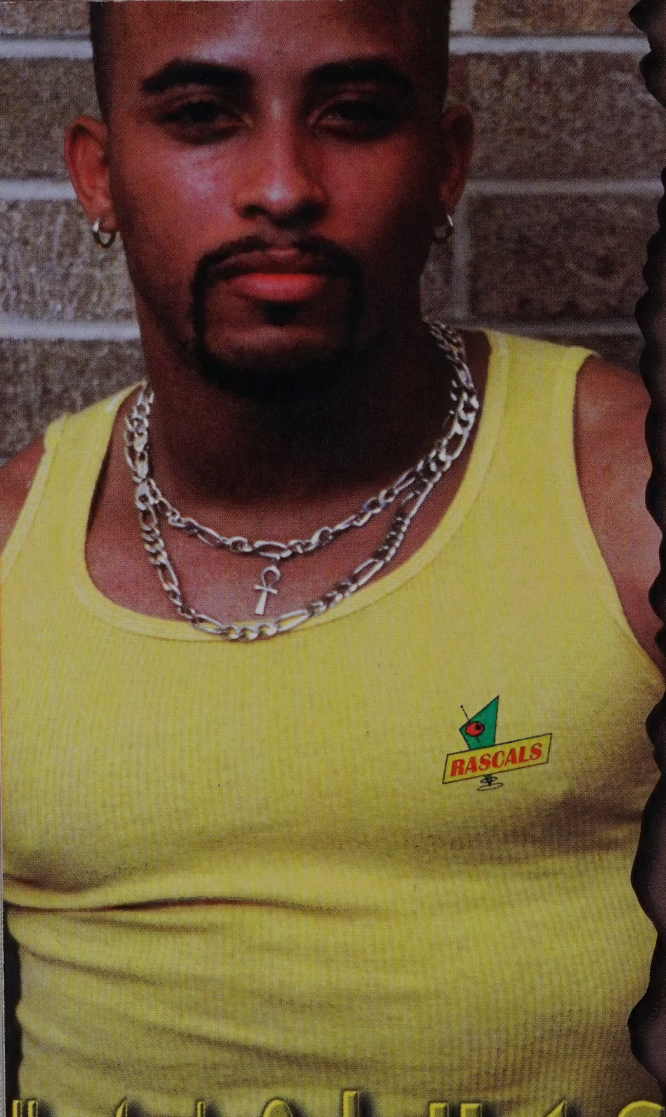

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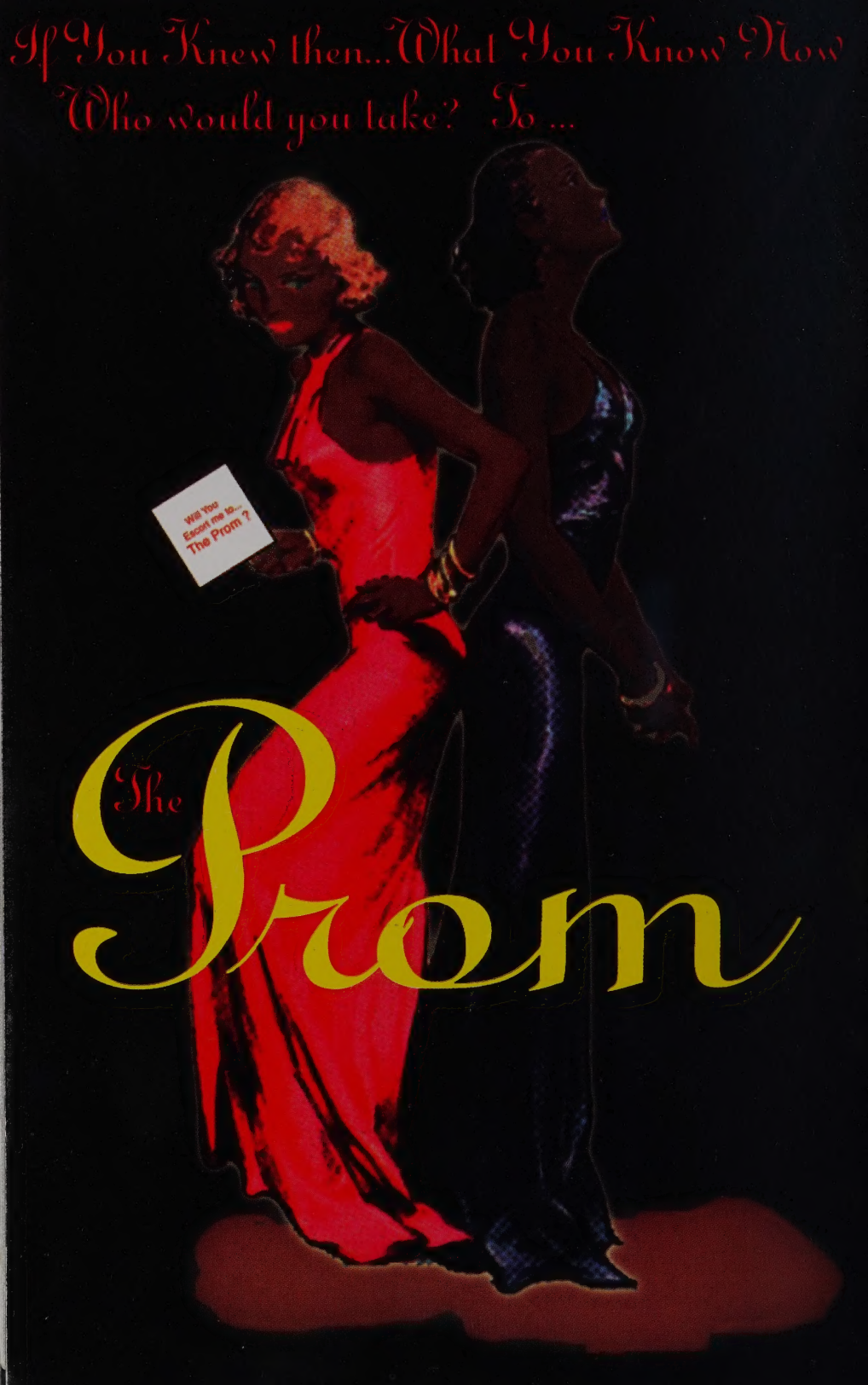

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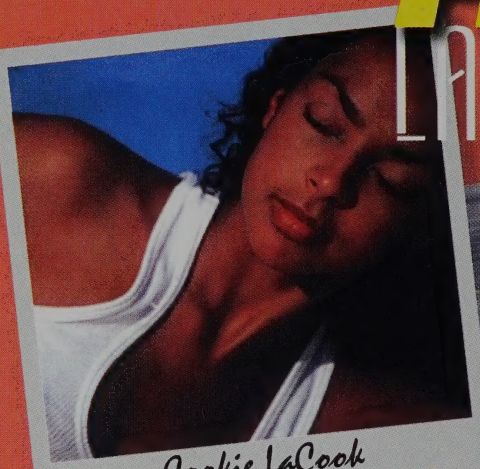

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Mondays
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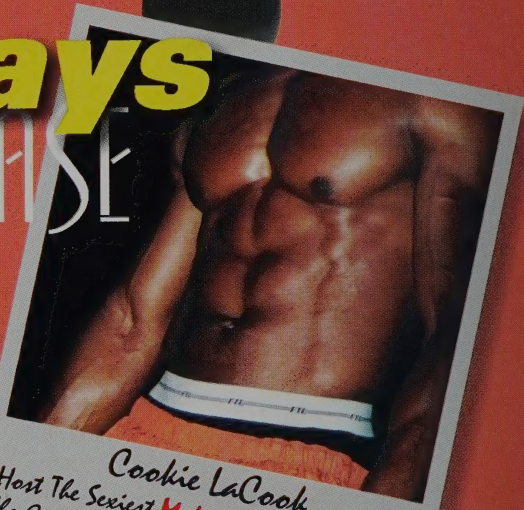

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Ebony Flesh

Male Review.

House/Hip Hop with

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Doors open @ 11 - Showtime Midnite

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Male Review.

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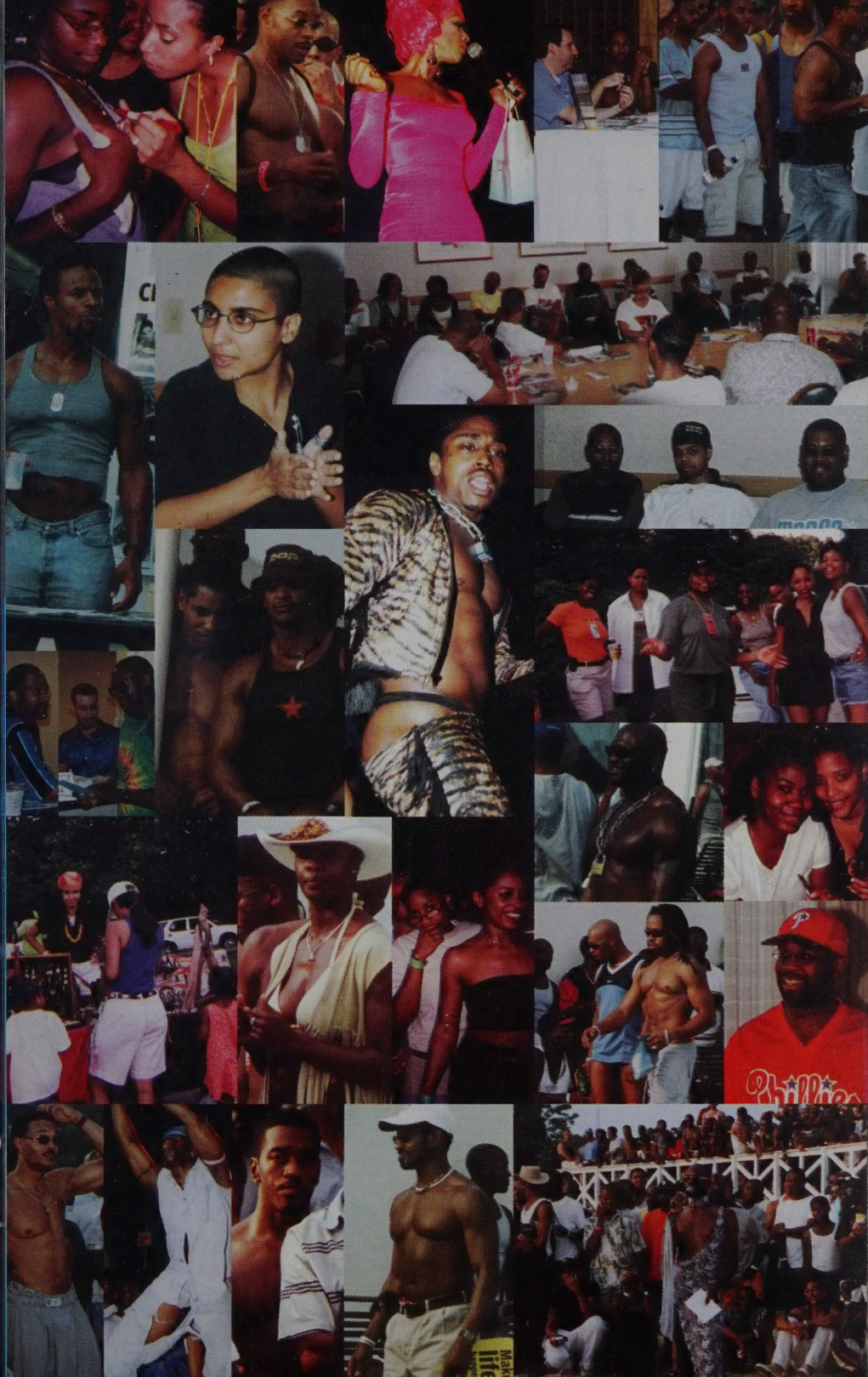
Wow, what an awesome weekend. Almost 20,000 people converged on the scene to confirm that Atlanta is without a doubt, the Nation's party capital for same gender loving people of color. Everyone was up in she... Atlanta that is. The official organizers of the entire weekend, **In The Life Atlanta, Inc.**, said that they were extremely encouraged by the amount of people that attended the many (non-party) workshops and seminars at their host hotel. They also informed Clikque that they have already began to plan for next year's events, which is expected to be the Biggest and Best Pride Weekend Ever.

This year the night clubs where letting the "kidds" have it; a great time that is. Most of the promoters pulled all the stops in attempts to ensure that everyone enjoyed themselves. If you didn't have a great time, it's only because you didn't want to.

Fusion got us started with a great male strip show on Thursday, 2 huge tents filled with men and awesome sounds by Sedric, Smash & Kurt on the two main dance floors on the inside. **The Palace** joined in with a lot of the same and culminated their weekend (for many) with a fierce block party on their famous Sunday night gathering. **Ragina** from **J2K Production** had the girls screaming for more with the likes of **Shanice** while **Lisa Cox** from **Girls In The Night** offered **White Chocolate** and **MC Lyte**, both of whom sent the girls into a frenzy. If you guys missed **Foxy Brown** at **TRAXX**, let me tell you, she was the bomb. Kudos to **Philip Boone** and TRAXX for offer our SGL community such a high profile entertainer. Saturday was absolutely FIERCE at TRAXX. Also a big hit, **Boyz Town**, a gathering of fine brothers at Rio Mall which offered a great daytime atmosphere. What have I missed, oh yes, for the first time since creation probably, to the astonishment of many visitors, the doors of **Loretta's** were closed. Well we are pleased to inform you that the club is now open. Did somebody say name change? Good luck Chris. Oh my God, there must have been a pool party every, and most of them were great, most. Labor Day Weekend was indeed FIERCE, Even **Clikque** came for you in a big way, the magazine was **PHAT**. See you guys next year.

MC Lyte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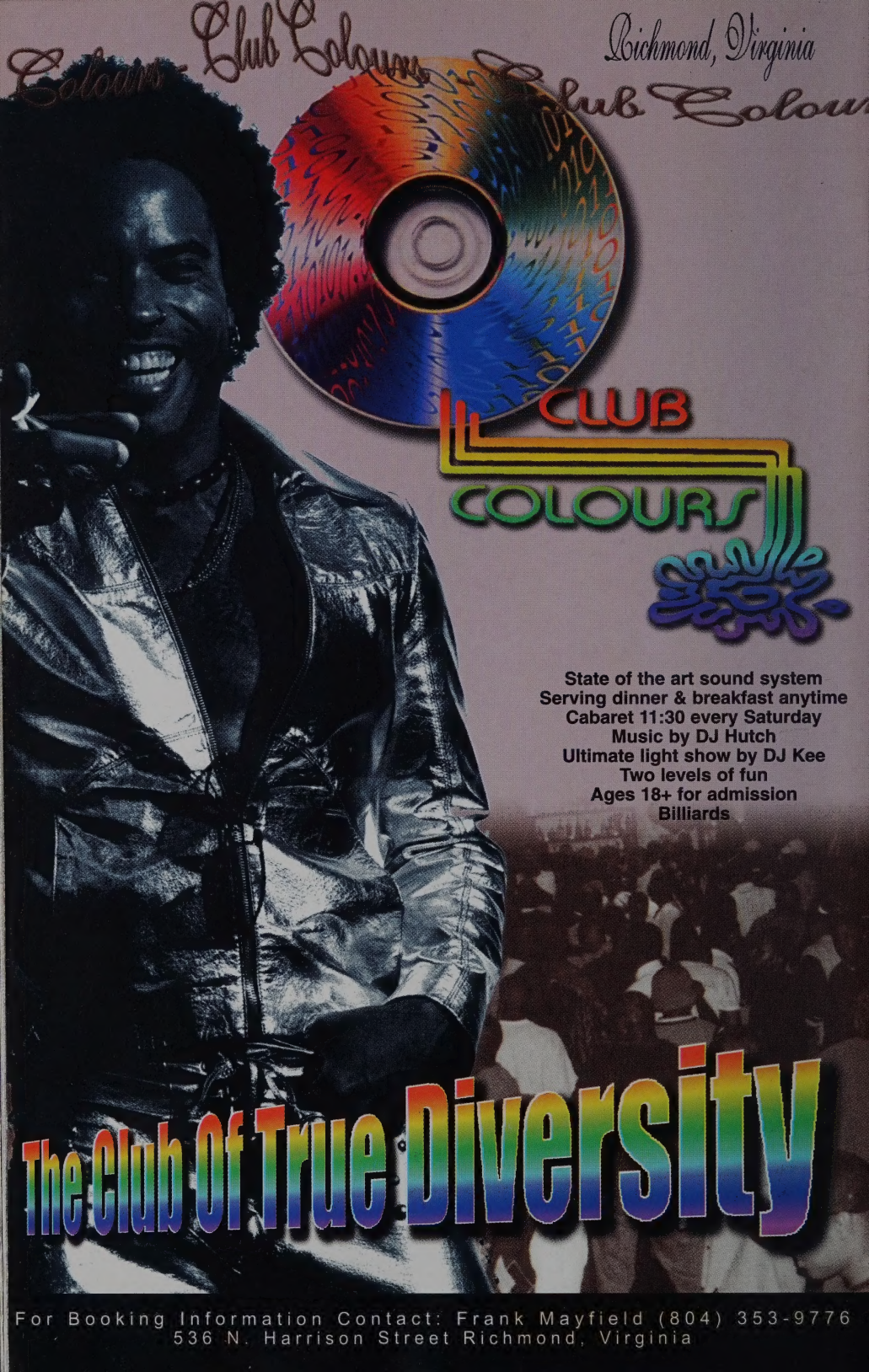
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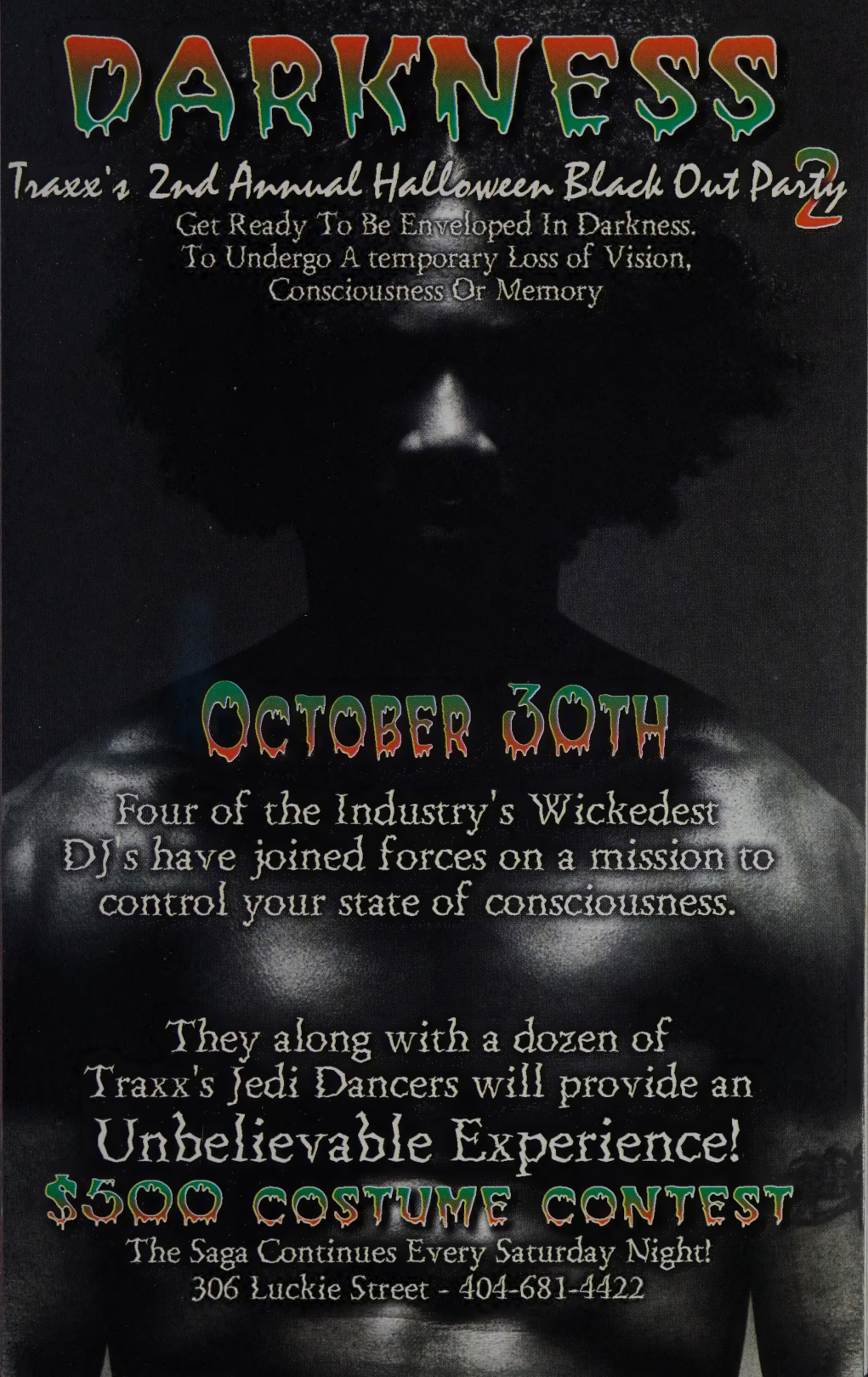
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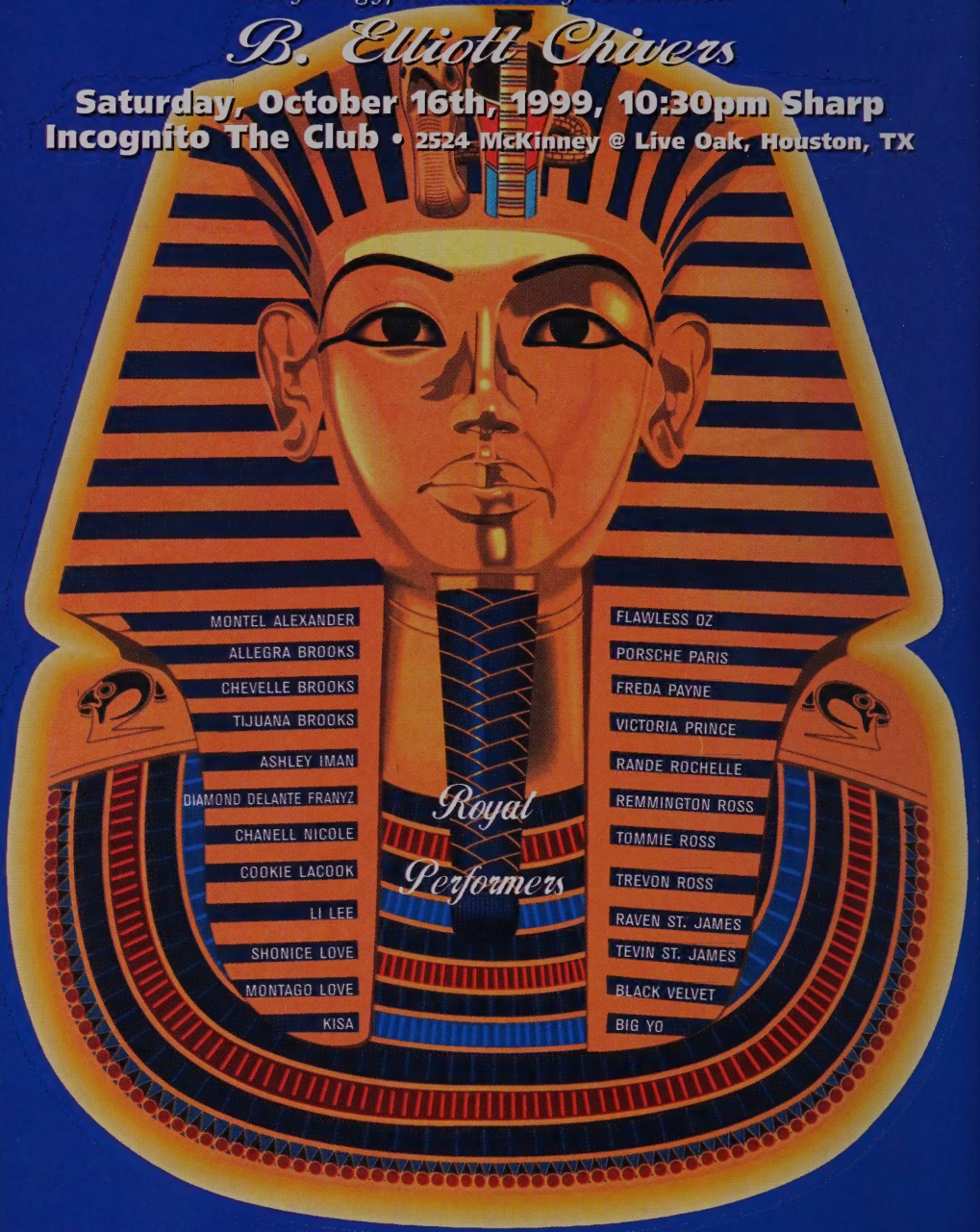

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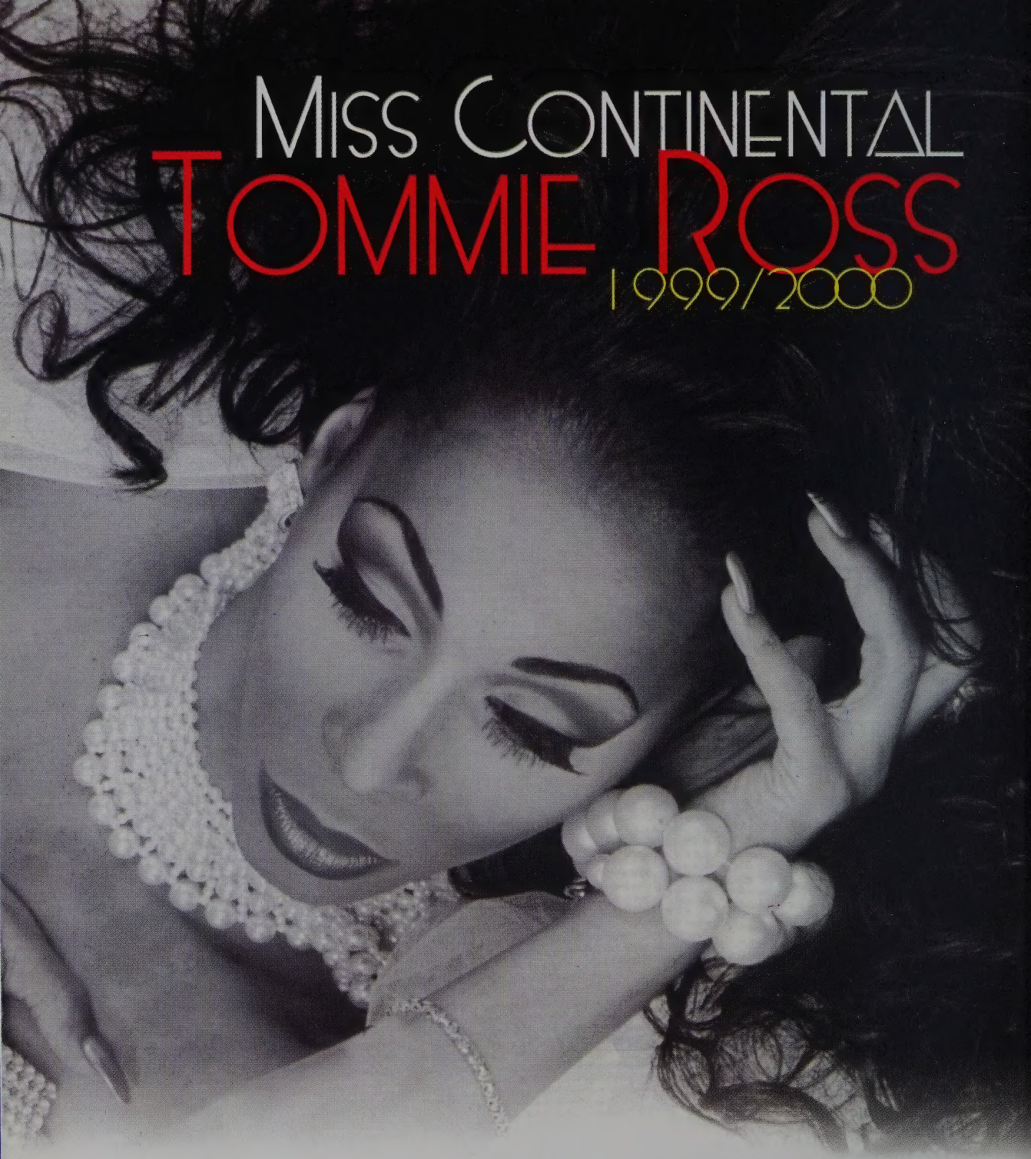

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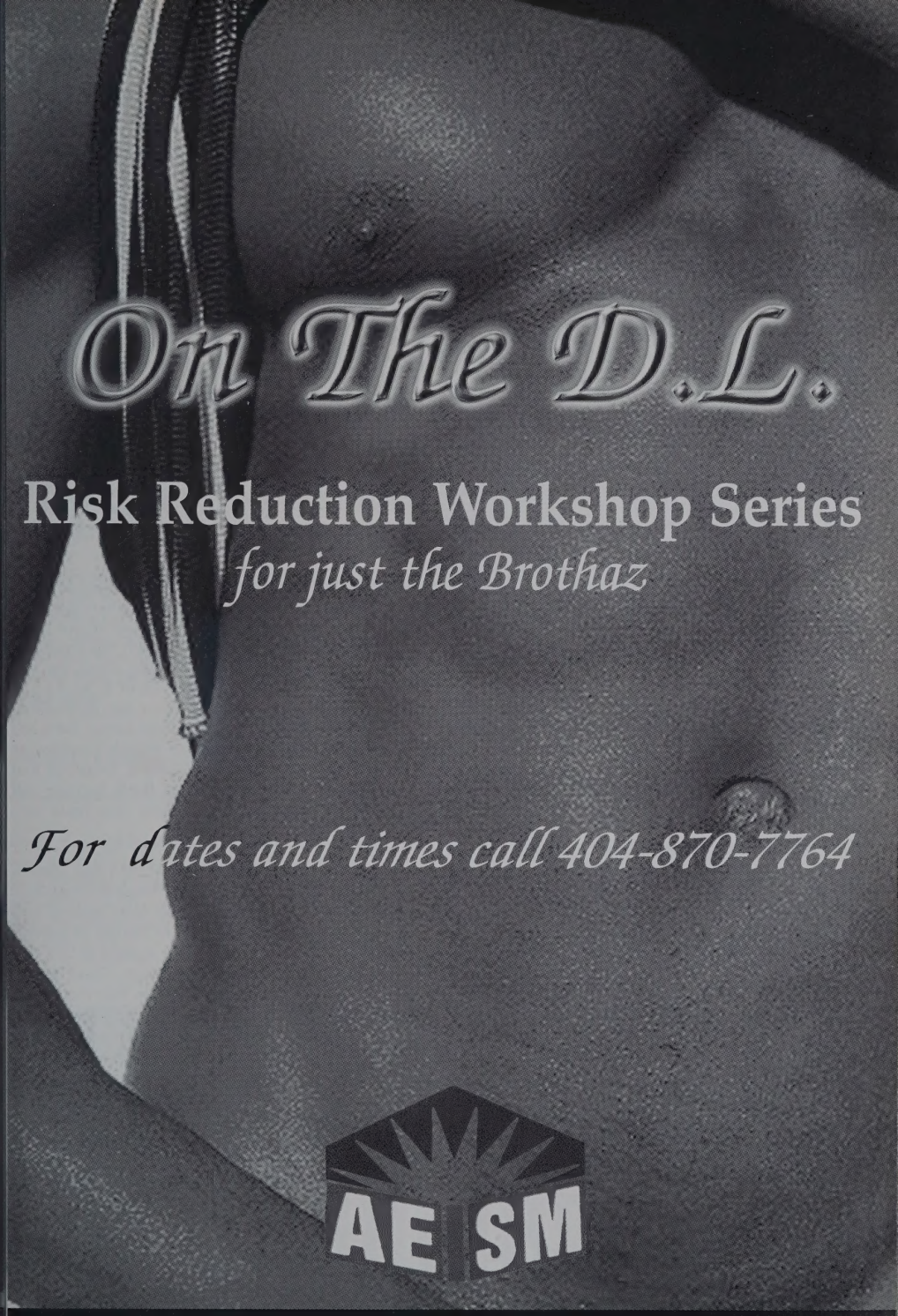

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Continued FROM page 00

members of society. An example of this can be found in the book Love Makes A Family.

Shurron Farmer, Washington, DC

Since the majority of our parents did not anticipate parenting a gay son or daughter. It was inevitable. For those of us that feel we did not choose this lifestyle, and that we were born this way. There was nothing my mother or father, or whom ever was my parent, could have said to prevent this Fabulously Gay Me. The Heterosexual Society FEARS of a GAY couple parenting a child is only that, another homophobic fear. The idea that a Gay couple could yield yet another Gay child as the result of being "in that type of environment," But it is not the by the sanction of the couple, but by the sanction of the Master of His Creation. Does the heterosexual society think that there are classes we hold in our homes as part of the curriculum of parenting our children to impose on them this Fabulously Gay lifestyle? Let's be serious. As we grow older we come to our own realizations and theories about life, love and liberty. Whether we are straight or gay, the opportunity for a child to be his/her own person is all the parenting we can give.

Each person is born with one specific thing in common, a mind: some are a little more fabulous than others, none-the-less, we each have a mind of our own. It is up to the parent or parents to teach that child that it is okay to have his own ideologies about life and love and what he/she or she gets out of it. So if a gay couple happens to parent a (dare I say it) "Loving, Educated, Successful, Straight human being" who has not or has homophonic views in regards to others or his own parents lifestyle, well so be it. Be proud that you parented a child that could think for him self without being influenced by others. You have successfully completed Parenting 101.

So in answer to your question, how do I feel about a Gay Couple Parenting a Child, I think it's Fabulous that someone feels that they have time, energy, and most importantly love to devote to the joy of parenting a child. If the couple, whether straight or gay, can make that happen, then let it happen. There are so many "Straight" parents out there in this world that need to have their parental rights revoked due to abandonment, neglect, and abuse it's utterly disgusting. Where in the world out the conception of the words "dysfunctional family" did we lose site of what it means to be a Parent? As when I, a Lesbian African-American, decide to parent my child, I intend to do it that very same way my "Mama" a heterosexual African-American female parented to me, regardless if my son or daughter finds joy in being Fabulously Gay or Fabulously Straight.

Gena Alexander,
Madison Heights, MI

I have learned, from many heterosexual women and men, that SGL (Gay) men and women have always been very loving people. I believe that we are that

way because we are always trying to find that love that was never given when we were younger. Now, of course, we don't all share the horror stories of growing up "The Different Kid Who Doesn't Know About Love", but I am sure that you have heard the stories and can relate. I believe that SGL(Gay) men and women would probably be better parents to children than our Heterosexual counterparts. I believe this because we are always looking for that "LOVE" and want it returned. Also, if you have been lucky enough to find someone to live out your life with, the Love and Caring that is built inside is tripled. Women, in general, are very caring individuals and SGL(gay) Men, especially feminine ones, have what it takes. Most, very masculine, men are just carbon copies of the men in our past that never showed love the way you wanted it.

I close by stating that when GOD blesses you with love he magnifies your love so you can share it with others. May God bless and keep those that have or want children. May he bless us all with the fruits of our labor.

PEACE
M.Ari.C, Berkeley, CA by way of Atlanta, GA

Firstly, I would like to say that this was my first visit to your website on a tip from a friend. Although I am yet to actually see your magazine, I'm very impressed with what I've seen so far!!

As to the question of the month, I believe that just as there are heterosexuals who are unfit to be parents there are same gender loving people who are unfit. However, being gay should not be a criteria for excluding us from parenthood. There are many children of gay parents who themselves are not gay. Further, should gays be stopped from having children if we wish?? If same gender loving people want to have children, they can and therefore should be allowed to adopt.

There are to few foster and permanent homes for children to discriminate on this basis. We should be looking for good parents period!!!

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Amado Musa Lanai

Why question? A gay couple has or should as least have the same right to raise a child as our "straight" counterparts.

In the development process of child rearing, nurture, support, and unconditional love should be the determining factors whether or not a couple, hetero- or homosexual, should have a child. The sexual orientation of the couple's does not determine the capability in the performance of child-rearing, but mental maturity, emotional stability, and financial security plays a vital role.

I feel strongly about the topic. I feel we, as a community, should share in the beauty of family and the warmth of parent-children love. But we also must realize the difficulties

and prejudices that we will embark during these times. We must realize as much as it may be a "gay-friendly" area, it is still a hetero-dominant society, and as far as they are concern gays are wrong. We are tolerated not condoned. To place a child under the care of a gay couple in these times of bigotry would bring along numerous emotional and psychological stress for that child, and as a gay couple are they ready for that?
Just some food for thought, but my feelings are evident in the paragraphs.

Thanks, M.N., Atlanta, Ga.

Society has a screwed perception already. Especially when we have so many abused,neglected and homeless children already that are looking for love and attention. Part of loving and raising a child is helping them understand the differences in society. I think that not explaining these differences harms a child more because they don't get a full understanding of life. They need to have the knowledge to make their own choices and knowing that the two PEOPLE care about you to give you the love and caring you didn't get from your biological parents is all that's important. Society does more harm to the child and itself when they discriminate.

KENNY OMNI, Chicago, IL

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for our next topic of the month

By Paris France, atlanta, ga.

"I'm just a girl"

Like a boat on the bed of a raging sea,
my heart is crying out,
"Somebody help me!!!"
Merciless waves, the angry wind.
Will this storm in my life ever end?

I don't understand the course or this way
but I must follow, I can not stray.

This is all so new to me. My mind is screaming,
"SET ME FREE!"

This face in my memory I can't seem to shake.
Soul chained with confusion, I can not break.

Imprisoned by the thought of you.
Oh God, what am I to do?

Wait to see what the future brings?
Shall I dance, walk, perhaps sing?
Write it down as I have done?
Gaze into the night or maybe the sun?

"Hauah"

I'm not a pervert, freak, or not of this world.
I'm just a girl.

I'm not dangerous, I do not kill. I don't even fight.
You would love me at first sight.

Why do you judge me, I don't understand.
Is it because I don't want a man?

I'm just a girl, trying to exist in this world.
Can I walk down th street without your dirty looks,
pretending you don't see me.

I'm crying out, can't you hear?
The voice of a girl with many tears?

I don't understand why I like women
and I'm not asking.
Just except me for who I am
and who I could be.

Don't hate me, I didn't ask for this.
I'm just a girl in a society that does not want me.
Except me. I'm just a girl.

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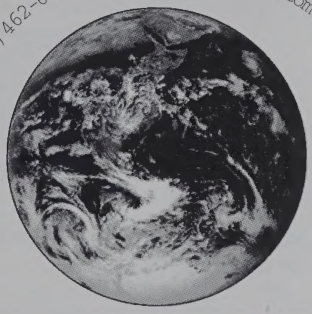

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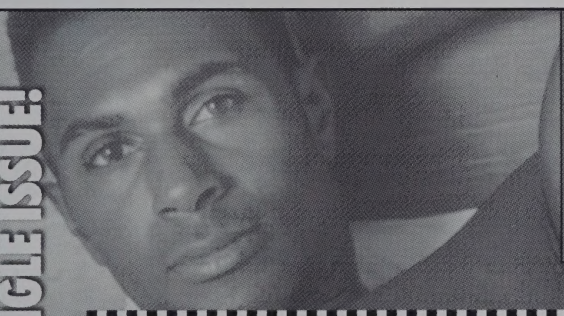

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WEEK DAY SPECIALS

Continued FROM page 18

himself to spend eternity in hell. The iceberg is dead ahead. Yes!, the Black man, who is so-called gay, is at the bottom of the barrel when it comes to the hierarchy of men in this nation. But have you ever seen what happens to the contents at the top and middle of a barrel when the bottom falls out? This person, the Black man, **who is so called gay**, needs a revolution. A revolution that will steer Black America around the HIV/AIDS iceberg. A revolution that will jumpstart the healing process. A revolution of the mind will give way to a healing of the heart, a cleansing of the soul and the return to health of the body and our people. "I'm talkin bout a revolution" - **a revolution of the MIND.**

The first Manchild, commonly referred to as Jesus Christ, **correctly** as Jesus the Christ was/is a teacher. Where did all these preachers come from? Jesus the Christ, first Manchild, Progenitor of the Christian Way/Faith {not Christian}Harbinger of the Christine Spirits, Shepherd of the 144,000 first Redeemed of Man for the Triune GOD, standing on Zion, is calling forth the Third Epoch. If you have eyes, than you shall see; if you have ears, than you shall hear; if the Triune GOD has your mind, than you shall understand this.

For Black men {in America}, who are so-called gay, here is your Truth:

The Advent of Eu-man
Menchildren of the Millennium
At the Dawn of the New Day

The Society of Eu-men

The Society of Eu-men is an associated group of African American men who believe in these triune tenets of a Eu-man.

1. We recognize that God is the Creator, Father and Mother of all things that were, are and shall be; then, now and forevermore unto whose will and desire for Peace, Love and Understanding for all of Life and Humankind we pledge ourselves to perpetual service in this life and all others to come.

2. We recognize that Jesus, the Christ, was, is and shall continue to be the ultimate manifestation of the unity and totality of the Triune God: the Creator, Father and Mother of all Humankind. Jesus, the Christ, was, is and shall continue to be the ultimate personification of a Eunuch for the Kingdom of the Triune God: the Creator, Father and Mother of all things unto whom we progressively strive to emulate and become like unto in this life and all others to come.

3. Through the Omnipotence, Omnipresence and Omniscience of the Triune God: the Creator, Father and Mother of all things whose essence of spirit dwells within and outside of ourselves

Continues on next page

By Gregory Victorian-chicago, il.

She may never receive an Oscar or even a Grammy, but Diana Ross has been one tough cookie. Missy was recently put behind bars on foreign soil as she slapped a Scotland Yard's police officer when going through customs at the notorious Heathrow Airport in London.

Word out of the UK has reported that the Queen of Weave was recently hauled off to jail for going completely off on a pale white, butch police officer at the international terminal when Ross was about to board a plane to the States after a series of concerts and charity appearance.

Not aware of who Ross is [how could she not], the officer though Diana had a gun in her possession in what was actually her hair dryer. Ross didn't take too kindly to the officer for puttin' her dirty hands on her silk blouse and yanking her 24" double looped white pearls. Diana reflected back to her Detroit project days and slapped the shit out of the bitch. You could hear the sound in the next terminal it was reported. Kinda reminded you of when Diannah Carroll fucked up Joan Collins only recent face lift on Dynasty back in the 80's.

Ross was booked at the Airport's police headquarters and posted bail of roughly $25,000. Small change for the living legend and was ordered to return for Trial or she would be barred from performing again in the UK - a major source of her income for the hitless diva.

After wailing that she wanted to be with her children, Diana was released after spending 6 hours in the roach infested cell with several other international passengers. Diana hailed a taxi back to the Airport and shashayed into the terminal of the awaiting press and struck a pose of two with adoring fans and gracefully signed autographs.

Unfortunately, her troubles were not over. Our darlin Black Beauty went into another hissy fit and was yanked off her flight for going off on the stewardess because she wanted a window seat in First Class after the plane waited for her to stroll gracefully down the walkway to the awaitin' jet liner.

Diana reported that "women are subjected to these personal & degrading searches", after the white bitch was touching the Queen of Song in areas that was none of her business. Ross hopped on the Virgin Atlantic Airline, and cried to sleep on her way back to States.

Note: We may have embellished a bit on this story.

ENTERTAINMENT

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and in all things; we recognize and honor the connectness of all Humankind and Life; therefore, we pledge ourselves to the progressive development of Peace, Love and Understanding towards all of Life and one another on Earth and throughout the Universe in this life and all others to come.

The Society of Eu-men
The Eleven (11) Daily

Principles for Living

1. Charitable
2. Civic
3. Compassionate
4. Fastidious
5. Forgiving
6. Loving
7. Meditative
8. Peaceful
9. Prayerful
10. Responsible
11. Understanding

(Grounded in the Reality of Definity-Unity-Infinity)

My brothers, please remember, as you gaze from the microcosm unto the macrocosm, this is a United verse. Please e-mail your comments to Vaquinn@compuserve, should you have any. May Peace be with thee now my brother.

SOLE: MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

RED ZONE/DREAMWORKS RAPPER SOLE'S DEBUT DISC SKIN DEEP

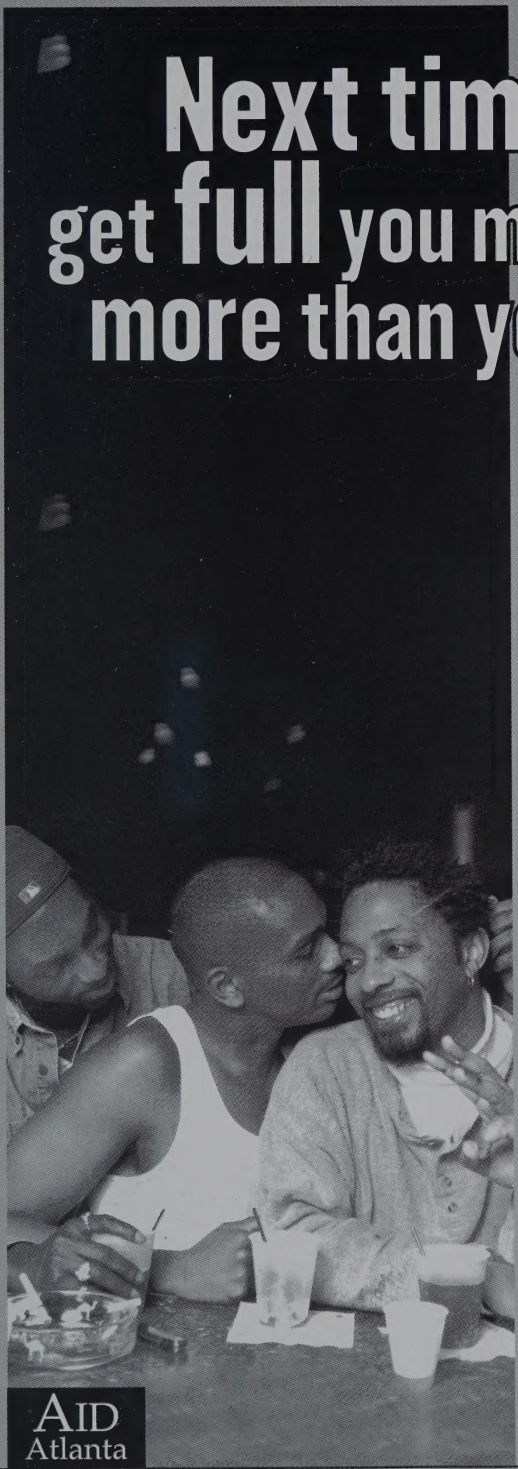
Straight off the sizzling success of **JT Money's** Top 5 Billboard Hot 100 hit "Who Dat" and featured on R&B trio **Before Dark's** single "Baby," rapper **SOLE's** debut disc **Skin Deep** dropped September 28 on Red Zone/ DreamWorks Records. Leading with the singles "I Yi Yi," and "4,5,6" SOLE's Skin Deep promises to be a Fall sizzler.

With her in-your-face lyrics and brusque style, SOLE's Skin Deep establishes her as a female rapper with real rapping and rhyming skills. Full of boast and swagger the underground hit "I Yi Yi," recalls "Who Dat" with its incessant chorus and Chris "Tricky" Stewart produced beats: "If you get dough, push benzos/Your neck, wrist and fist glow/You spit flows, your clique rolls/And ride with the red zone/ Say Iy Yi Yi, Iy Yl Yi." SOLE makes it clear that she's ready and willing to please her man on the disc's first single "4,5,6," with its accompanying racy **Gregory Dark** directed video. These cuts combined with buoyant party tracks ("Ain't Nobody," "Get Up In It"), vivid gangster narrative ("The Story"), emotional tales of ghetto love ("Our World") and heartbreak ("Pain," "4 tha Love of U," "Never Thought I") make Skin Deep a well rounded and welcome visit into SOLE's complex world of womanhood. In addition to Stewart, and other talented producers, Skin Deep also features guest appearances by **Montell Jordan**, **Goodie Mobb**'s **Bigg Gipp**, **Xscape**'s **Kandi Burruss**, **Tamar**, and **Tek 9**. **JT Money**'s "Who Dat" is also included as bonus track on the disc.

SOLE, a native of Kansas City, MO, knew she would one day be a performer and started on the road to stardom performing locally in talent shows as a half of the rap duo called Devine, ultimately opening for such rap acts as **EPMD, DJ Quik**, and **Whodini** when they performed in the area. But it was the decision to move to the musical talent pool of Atlanta after college that ultimately led SOLE to solo success, when she linked up with producer Chris "Tricky" Stewart (**JT Money, Tyrese, Blaque**) and his Red Zone Entertainment.

Take a listen as SOLE displays her style. It's more than Skin Deep.

Next time you get full you may lose more than your head.



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WANTED:
A Few Good Sissies

Though in a drunken stupor, she looked at me with such clarity, the way a mother does her child when contemplating the miracle of birth, as if I were a magnificent thing to behold. Then, perhaps to mark my legal entry into adulthood, in a loud, ghetto patio, she proclaimed, "I don't care if you suck dick or whatever it is you do, you is still my baby and I love you" Like early blueswomen of legend—poorly educated, deeply Southern, hip-shakin' and drankin'—my grandmother had an inimitable way of expressing herself . . . and an infinite capacity to love.

Amazingly, it seems my entire life an unending cadre of black women (my aunts, teachers, unknown women in the street) have loved and protected me, often defying their moral understanding of my shameless sissy ways. That I would mature from femme queen to feminist queen—to return that love—was a natural and logical progression in my adult development, one I envisioned many gay brothers duplicated.

However, when black lesbian-feminist Audre Lorde died in 1992, a memorial was held in her honor at Malcolm X College. Several hundred lesbian sisters attended and a horde of white lesbians as well. Yet, we brothers numbered less than a couple dozen. It was then that I first became aware of the serious disconnect between brothers and sisters in our community—and that black gay men (at least locally) might not be as feminist as I originally thought. Since then, I've noticed a continued lack of interest on the part of brothers in black feminist events (and ideas), and though I understand it, it is nevertheless problematic for purposes of community.

For the most part, we live in gender-separate, socio-political communities that interact on an infrequent basis. In fact, excluding mutual "homosexual issues," it's generally thought that a black lesbian-feminist agenda has little to do with brothers and a black gay male agenda has little to do with sisters. While sisters are often organizing around vast issues concerning breast cancer, domestic violence, and reproductive freedom, brothers are often creating supportive environments for black gay men living with HIV/AIDS, or working toward greater sexual freedom and better health via safer sex parties and AIDS education.

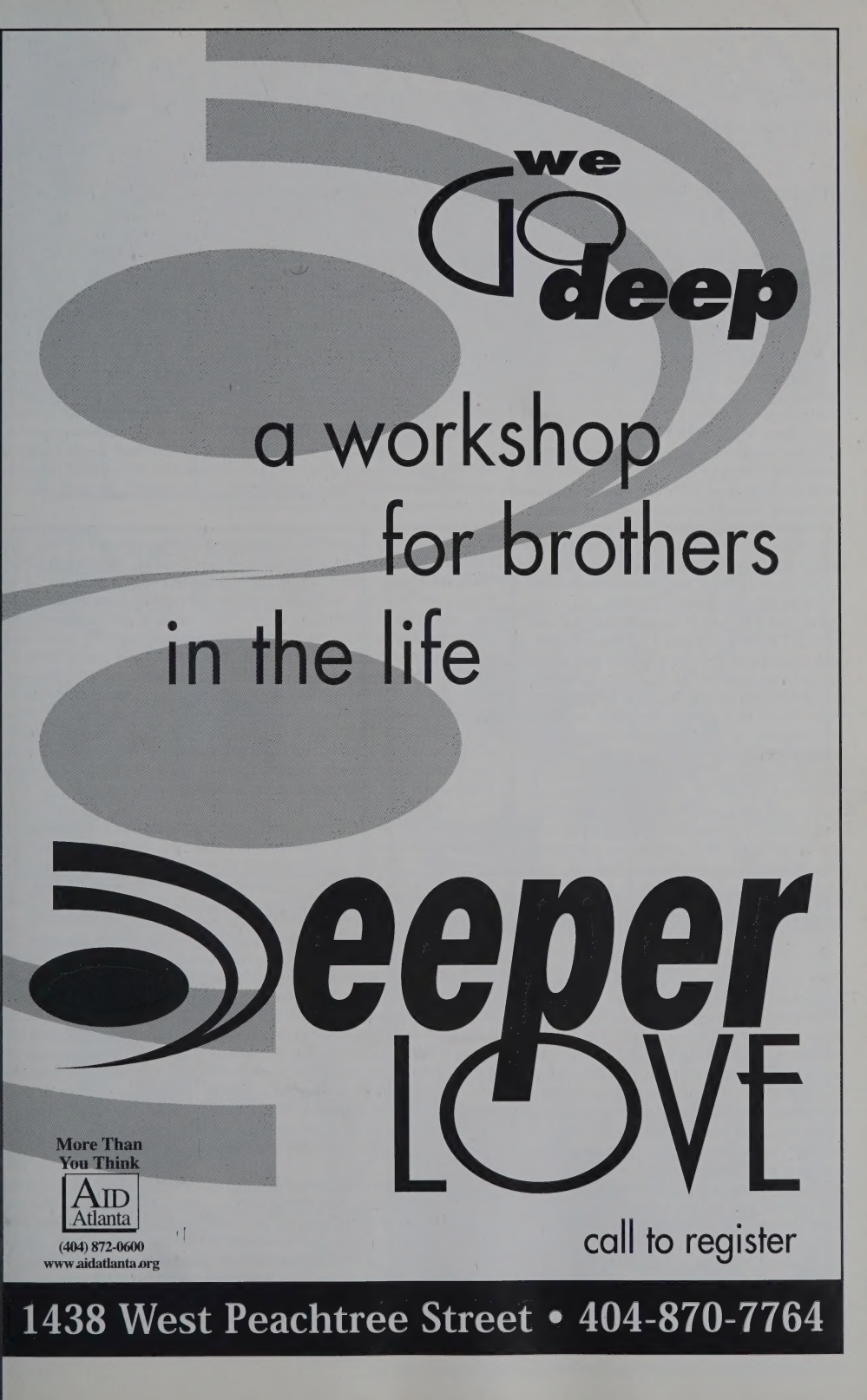
But because stronger black gay/lesbian community is a desired end, as black gay men, it is incumbent upon us to ask ourselves, "How can sisters really trust us if we are only willing to address the life-threatening issues they face as "dykes" but not as "the lesser sex?" And while there are certainly brothers around who are passively feminist (or anti-sexist in their thinking), perspective alone is not enough; an active engagement with sisters is still necessary. As gay men, we have access to male privilege which we often utilize. Therefore, we brothers must be the first ones to come correct and prove that we are not down with patriarchy, out of a concern for a unified movement.

Besides, more of us need to understand that feminism's aim is to dismantle sexism and misogyny which are not only cultural expressions of a disdain for women (especially "dykes"), but also a disdain of the feminine (in this case, "faggots"—men who "do" other men). In addition, black feminism not only furthers black female liberation, but also indirectly fortifies the black gay male struggle. By forcing a continuous rethinking of the female question (What is it to be a black woman?), black feminism also invites a rethinking of the male question (What is it to be a black man?), not only because of the dichotomous nature of American culture, but also because movements or influences each other.

Consider this: last summer, the Black Radical Congress convened thousands of activists and intellectuals across the spectrum of political ideology to plan strategy for the coming millennium. At the top of the agenda was a call, imposed by the organizers, to adopt a pro-feminist and pro-gay/lesbian position. Now, if straight brothers and sisters can make the necessary connections between multiple oppressions to forge a new black movement, then surely the need for new-age sissies to step forth and claim feminism, in the name of greater black gay/lesbian solidarity, can be met.

And really, even if we gay brothers had no reason to be feminists other than the fact that black women are (and have always been) our most fierce protectors, wouldn't that in itself be enough?

By Jean Pierre Campbell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Deliverance

by: Shurron Farmer - Washington, DC

Salvation is arguably the greatest gift God can bestow on a person. It is the testimony of many Christians that nothing in the world can ever compare to accepting and proclaiming the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin. Many of us have come to know the true value of Jesus' grace, mercy, and love; the things of the Holy Spirit which enable us to live with divine joy in our hearts and a God-given peace in our minds. In addition to freedom from sin, we as Christians come to realize that Christianity doesn't mean one will not make mistakes in one's walk through life after salvation. As Paul wrote in Romans 7:19-21, "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find a law that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." When one repents for one's mistakes or sins, one can praise God for the final phase of self-forgiveness and divine forgiveness-deliverance! One can praise God for deliverance from sin, evil or dangerous situations, destructive thoughts, and destructive people. I would like to share with you the knowledge has revealed to me about the delivered gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community He is building. There are three major areas God is using to build this community: fear, loneliness, and internal conflict.

The non-heterosexual community has a burden of fear on its shoulders. Although there has been some progress in the acceptance of non-heterosexuality by the rest of society, many gays and lesbians still fear the loss of job/career, family relationships, friendships, acceptance by society, or even their very lives because of their non-heterosexuality. Some homosexuals have a fear of not having stable romantic companionship as they get older; others have a fear of rejection. Some persons fear that success in life or love will be too much to deal with. God wishes for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people to be delivered from fear. 2 Timothy 1:7-8 states, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, not of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God." Being fearless shouldn't be equated with rebelliousness and being against all societal standards; being fearless leads to renewal of strength, humility, and courage. As GBLT persons, let us remember the strength God has already given us. It is this strength through which God can deliver us from fear. What is this strength being spoken of? Well, consider this: in spite of rejection of non-heterosexuality in many of society's institutions (e.g. the military, the families of some GLBT people, some churches attended by other GLBT people), many same gender loving people still praise God for the love, peace, joy, and blessings they receive from God.

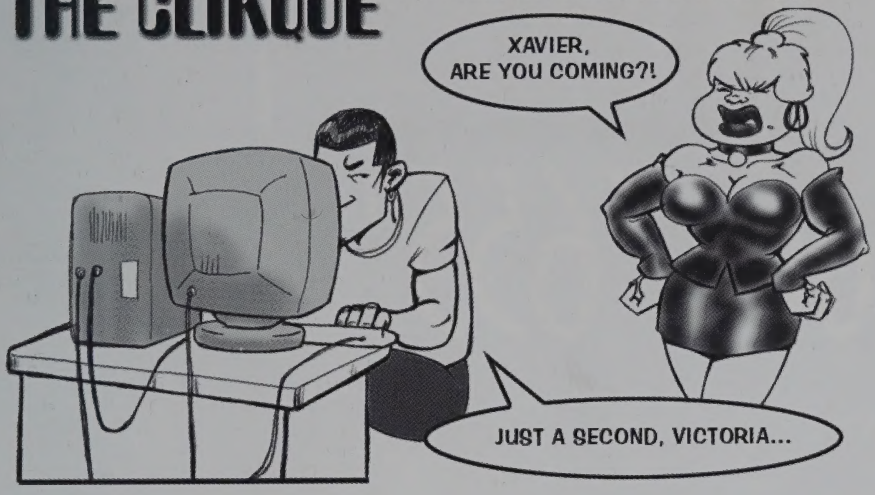
God will supply you with all you need (Philippians 4:19), and this includes internally and externally received love. By remembering that one is never alone, one can be delivered from loneliness. How many gay men go to cruising spots, sex parties, and bathhouses because of loneliness? How many GLBT persons will destroy themselves through words, thoughts, and deeds because they aren't in a romantic relationship even though they might have a nice body, a nice car, their own home/apartment, etc.? How many gays and lesbians continue to keep destructive friendships or romantic relationships because they do not wish to be alone? God wants us as non-heterosexuals to be in sweet communion with Him, and in this communion we can find self-completion, thereby being delivered from loneliness. Deliverance from loneliness leads to deliverance from desperation and to deliverance from fear of rejection.

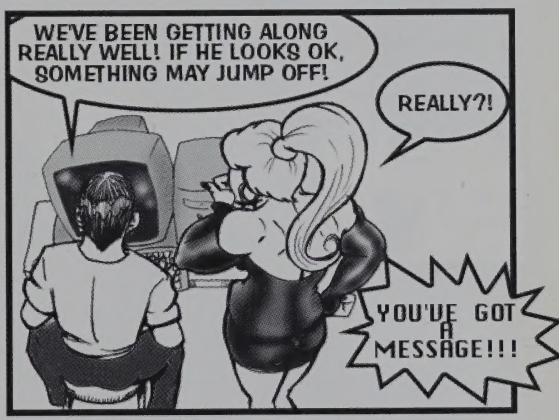
In order to continue make a real 'community' of GBLT people, Jesus wants to deliver gays and lesbians from the struggles within the community. Internal conflicts such as sexual proclivities, masculine men versus effeminate men, interracial dating, separation of men and women, rejection of female impersonators, societal acceptance, self-acceptance, violence, etc. have distracted the GLBT community from giving the term 'community' validity. If non-heterosexuals wish to end internal conflict in the community, then perhaps we should remember to strive for true brotherly love (Hebrews 13:1). Even if we do not agree on everything, we as gays and lesbians can still become one under the Spirit of the Lord (Ephesians 4:1-6). God wishes for us to be delivered from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16), and many of our internal conflicts can be traced back to a combination of these three concepts. To become one, we must unite with all of God's community, regardless of philosophy of life or sexuality. Then, as His people, the GLBT community can be a beacon of light to the rest of the society, and all of God's community can be a light for the rest of the world to see.

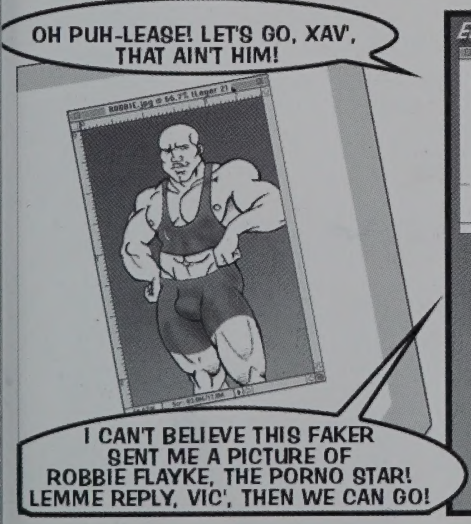
To conclude, we must never forget that all happens to us is due to God's will, purpose, and design on our lives. God tests us so that we may become stronger, and in deliverance from bad situations and issues we receive strength. Individually and as a community, let us pray to the Lord and ask Him to deliver us and strengthen us as GLBT people. Let us look to the Lord, and not man, for guidance. Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

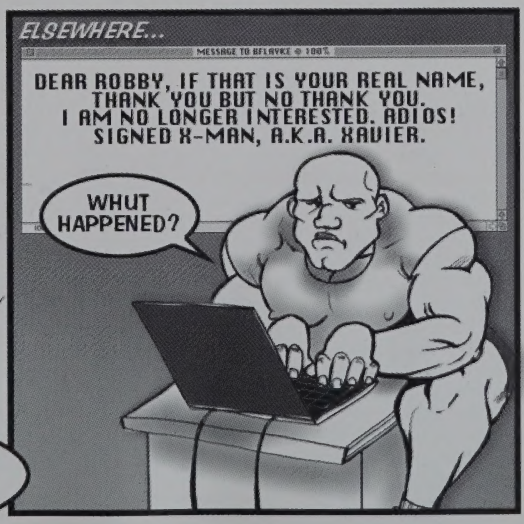
THE CLIKQUE

by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER©1999





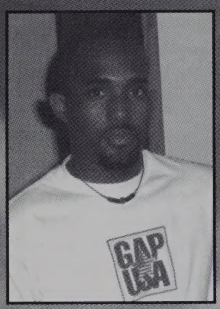

OH PUH-LEASE! LET'S GO, XAV', THAT AIN'T HIM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS FAKER SENT ME A PICTURE OF ROBBIE FLAYKE, THE PORNO STAR! LEMME REPLY, VIC', THEN WE CAN GO!


ELSEWHERE...
DEAR ROBBY, IF THAT IS YOUR REAL NAME, THANK YOU BUT NO THANK YOU. I AM NO LONGER INTERESTED. ADIOS! SIGNED X-MAN, A.K.A. XAVIER.
WHUT HAPPENED?

Door "655"

by Queshan Hayes

Part IV



Transition: Okay, Atlanta, here it is again, "Door 655." I hope you all enjoyed last month's issue and had a safe and happy Labor Day. Anyway here it is, Part IV. Alright, last month you listened in on William's and Craig's late night phone call that revealed how their little encounter would be handled: Don't talk about it. It didn't happen. So William decides to ease his tension first, by himself, then with a female. Thus, you are then introduced to the hot and sexy Cicely who's coming over to help William forget his worries. To surprise her, William decides to greet her at the door in his birthday suit. But who shows up? You guessed it, Craig. The story picks up here.

And there was William and there stood Craig. William in all of his glory, cut, muscular, leaning to one side with an erection that pointed straight at Craig. Craig stood on the other side of the threshold with a nervous grin, some shorts, and some sport sandals—eyes locked on William's engorged, beautiful, chocolate stick. He could have sworn that he had subconsciously licked his lips.

"Oh shit," William said as he quickly closed the door. He didn't mean to slam it in Craig's face. It was a reflex. He then cracked it open just enough to stick his head through.

"Hey, man. Give me a minute, ahite?"

"Sure," Craig said, trying to hold back a smile that began to take over his face. William again closed the door and ran back into his bedroom to put on some shorts, all the while, Craig stood outside holding on to that once in a lifetime centerfold image of William standing there naked. All that Craig could whisper was, "Sweet Jesus!!" as he shook his head. He stood there for a moment with his arms crossed, knowing that he now had an image to use for later solitary activities. In a matter of seconds, William was back at the door.

"Umm, come in man," he said as he opened the door wider to let Craig pass thru. He walked in an stood by the couch where all of this had started. William slowly closed the door as he thought to himself, "Ohhh shit.."

"Look, William..." Craig began. "I just couldn't sleep..I..don't know where to begin and I don't know what to say. I just wanted...I just needed.. to..to.. come and talk to you."

"Hey Craig...um...why don't you have a seat, man."

"OOOOh no!...Ohh no...That's how this shit got started. I'm just gonna stand right here. Yeahhh, just stand right here until we get this handled."

"Ahite man, suit yourself," William said as he leaned against his door. He stood there looking at Craig, his head bare-

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

ly raised, his eyes like an innocent lamb. Then, there was that silence again.

"William, I know that a lot has happened in the past couple of hours, but we can handle this, right?" William stood there and thought for a few seconds. Then, as calm as a breeze, he said, "What are you talking about, Craig?"

"What am I talking about?!! What am I talking about?!! You know what the hell I'm talking about," Craig exploded.

"Calm down Craig. I'm not yelling, so I would appreciate it if you didn't yell at me," William said as he switched positions to lean his back against the door and fold his arms.

"I've got neighbors and I don't need you waking them up."

"Fuck you and fuck your fucking neighbors, William."

"Come on Craig. You need to really calm down man or leave,,"

"Or what? You gonna kick me out? Or beat my ass. What?!!"

"Craig, come on, man. It's not that serious. I'm just saying maybe you need to go back upstairs, calm down, and come back and talk to me like an adult."

"An adult?! An adult?! An adult would face the facts. An adult would realize that he can't use alcohol as a fucking scapegoat. An adult would realize that he's a fucking faggot!!" And with those words, the whole atmosphere changed. The temperature in the room rose, heartbeats pounded so loudly that the walls shook. Then there was William's expression. No longer an innocent lamb. No, it was pure evil. His forehead revealed a vein that danced across his entire head. He squinted his eyes and inhaled deeply. His once loosely folded arms, turned into bars of steel with two tensed fists at both ends.

"What the fuck did you say?" Silence.... "What...in the fuck...did you say, Craig?" William repeated. Craig had noticed the change in William. So he felt that it was in his best interest to remain silent. So he stood there, breathing, chest still heaving from his prior yelling. Then William snapped. He just snapped. No longer leaning on the door. No longer innocent eyes of a lamb. No longer William. Now, just inches away from Craig's nose. Now, with eyes of the devil himself. Now, some creature from the gates of hell, his wrath unleashed.

"What in the fuck did you say? Who in the fuck do you think you are? Coming down here telling me you know who the fuck I am? Huh?...Huh?.. You don't know me. You come into my fucking house and tell me some lame ass shit like this. Yeah. Yeah, I did it. I rubbed dicks with yo' ass. Shit, I ain't denying that. But I ain't no fucking faggot!! You hear me? Do you hear me?" he said while pointing his finger into Craig's chest. Craig had heard every word. William's rampage had put fear in his heart that he had never experienced.

"Now, you can say what ever the fuck you wanna say, but you ain't gonna call me no faggot in my own house! Look at me!! Look at me!! I'm a fucking man, nigga!! I play sports, I watch sports, I play basketball every fucking day with other men. I like pussy, nigga! Pussy!!! I got a fucking dick!! And I'm a fucking man!!... You know what? Get the fuck out!!" he said as he pushed Craig a little too hard. Craig lost his balance and fell onto the couch. Now, there were two things that Craig would not stand for. Liars made his blood boil and negative physical contact made his adrenaline bubble. And William had just crossed one of those lines. In one swift movement, Craig was back on his feet and all in William's face.

"What, because you're a man, you think you can push me around?

"Hey man, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to push you down," he said, genuinely sorry. He reached out to grab Craig's arms.

"Get your hands off me!!!" Craig said as he pushed William's hands away.

"Just because I like men makes me less of a man than you think you are? Huh?"

"Come on Craig, let's just drop it!"

"No!...No, William We are both men! And that's something you will never accept! I'm a fucking man, too!"

"I never said that you weren't, man I was just letting

you know that I wasn't a fucking faggot. I know you are a man, Craig. I know. I know. I'm sorry if I made you feel any less. I'm really sorry that I pushed you down," William pleaded. Craig, still breathing heavily, accepted William's apology. Feelings began to calm and they seemed to be talking like adults now. William realized that Craig was truly a man. And Craig realized that he had disrespected William with a word he himself hated and swore that he would never use.

"Come on, man. It's not all that serious," William said as he stepped back.

"So what is it, William?" asked Craig. And out of nowhere, William closed his eyes and shook his head.

"I don't know, man. I just don't know...I mean...I.. tried. I tried to....I wanted to...I...," And slowly, tears began to stream down William's beautiful face. Craig's heart immediately became heavy. He wanted to reach out to William, but he didn't know if he should. "Fuck it," he thought as he slowly reached out and put his hand on William's right shoulder.

"Come on, man. Talk to me," Craig pleaded.

"Man, it's just so...so..fucked up. My mom...I mean they didn't know..."

"Know what William? What?!"

"My Uncle Wes...He...He.." And it immediately hit Craig like a load of bricks why William had called out his Uncle's name during their incident.

Continues on Page 72

TransForum

Monthly Column For Our Transgendered Community

Welcome back! I hope that the last trip we took together was pleasurable, I know it was for me. This time around I want to discuss a real sensitive issue for a lot of people... Conformity. How and why we as transsexuals feel the need to do it. Why we as Gays and Lesbians feel we have to do it... conform that is.

For so long society, and sometimes even people close to us have been trying to place us in a closed box, or closet if you will. When that didn't work and the closet doors swung open, they tried to stigmatize and categorize us. Gay, Lesbian then came the "safe" word "Bisexual-, and then finally Transgendered. In comparison it sounds...well... weird. What's next?

There are individuals among us in the trans community, and the Gay community for that matter that don't "fit" into any of those labels. Call me Lisa Lost, but is a label not something you put on a can good, bottle of shampoo, or box of crackers? A label was meant to describe the contents to be found on the inside of the package. You all get where I'm going? So instead we conform. Be it for the sake of pleasing Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa, School, employers or our significant others. Conformity is blatant discomfort and I am so thankful that I never really had to travel that lonely road. However for the trans community as a whole having to conform is a living hell. Take for instance a dear friend of mine, (now living as a woman), conformity was almost tragic for her. Once she decided that she would start the transformation she still continued to "hide" and conform to the ways of her parent's household and their beliefs. She slicked her hair back to hide it's length. She even strapped her new breasts down with ace bandages and undersized sportsbras. All for what? Why do we make the change anyway if not to celebrate the rebirth of ourselves. I personally would never alter my body for the sake of someone else's gratification. If you allow people to mold you into who they want you to be then who will you become? In most cases what you become is a carbon copy. I, myself prefer an original.

When it's all said and done the way you feel about yourself has a lot to do with the amount of respect you receive from others. No matter what has happened in the past we should take a stand to renew ourselves right now. Conformity is something we should never succumb to. Who are we really trying to please anyway, if not ourselves. Why the constant quest for the ideal? Well if you want my opinion, we will never achieve the ideal because it is false, an illusion created with smoke and mirrors, (Maybeline), lights, cameras and photo retouching. We will never be truly at peace with ourselves until we can make peace with our limitations. In the meantime conformity is not the answer.

Before I close this time around I would like to take the time out to say thank-you to ali who read this column every month. I hope it has addressed some of your needs. I also hope that you will continue to look here for advice, wisdom, thought and perspective, for the mere act of writing this column is absolute therapy for me. I would also like to give an overdue "shout-out" to some of my favorite girls of the stage: The Mother of Atlanta- Niesha Dupree, my sister-Jasmine Kelley, The Lady Jonel, Milan Sanchez, The Lady Fabian Sanchez, Tina Cocina Devore, Paula Sinclair,

Jasmine Bonet- were you ever really a man?, Raquel Lord- my favorite Miss Black Universe, Racine Scott- The most notorius Miss Black Universe, Stasha Sanchez- no formal introduction needed, Tommie Ross- What pageant haven't you won?, P. Jazzmun Darnell, Ashley Iman-of Houston, Jennifer St. John, BASIA- I don't care what they say, she will always be the one, A'SZIA- you better work girl cause nobody saw you coming, now the sky is the limit, the late Mishon Black-truly blessed, Sasha Valentino of Chicago- the future Miss Continental, Mirage Alexandria- you are really going places, Necole Luv Dupree- entertainer extraordinare, Sophia McIntosh- you really are home, and always on cue, Chevon Scott- we go way back, Dorae Saunders-of Columbia,S.C.- always great entertainment, and if I missed anyone just know that you were merely overlooked but not forgotten. Have a great month.

Until next time.

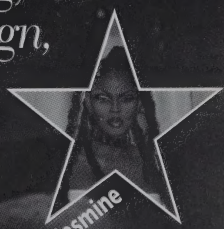
Dorian Kelley-Jahman

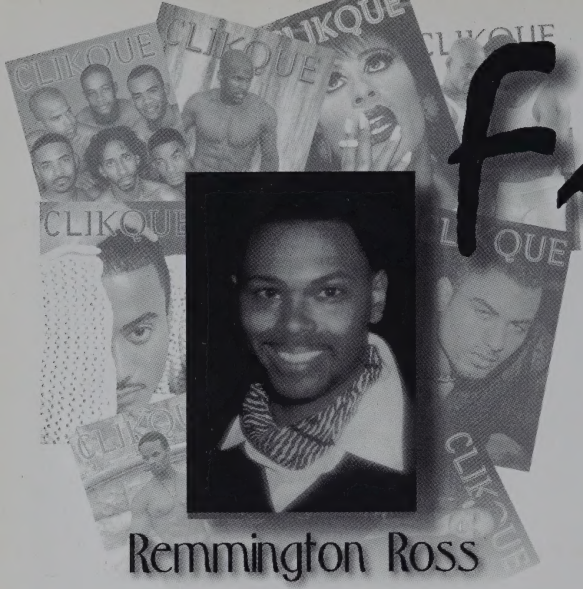
TRAXX

MONDAY WITH THE STARS OF THE CENTURY

Show hosted by the Hilarious Sophia McIntosh & her witty side kick Dominique Rashad. Starring : Necole Luv Dupree, R'Darius Black, Stasha Sanchez, Sophia McIntosh, The Mother of Atlanta - Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Dominique Rashad, Mr. Black Universe - Monté St. James, Miss Black Universe - Raquel Lord and a host of special guests.

Professional Elevated Stage, Two-way Screen Monitor, Intelligent Stage & Club Lighting, Quality Sound System, Creative Set Design, and Theatre Style Seating. Main Show at 1AM , Mini Show at 11PM Drink Specials





Fierce
The Column

Remmington Ross
The Prince Of Pageantry

Faster than a speeding bullet more powerful than a locomotive able to leap tall drag queens in a single hop. No it's not a bird and most definitely not a plane, it's simply The "Fierce" Column coming your way inside the Clikque again.

Greetings contestants, readers,& patrons of pageant entertainment I would like to thank Atlanta's **Natalia Scott Dupree** for being the author of that gracious introduction. When I am attending a pageant I will be in "Crownscope" mode.

Congratulations to **Onyx Onassis and Porsche Paris,** winners of the recent Mr. & Miss Rascals Pageant which was held in Houston. We are confident that you will do well at Universe later this month. Good luck from the entire staff of Clikque Magazine.

I celebrated my birthday with a party at incognito the club on September the 18th. **Tommie Ross, Paris Frantz**, and Miss Black America'99 **Yosmein Cambell Starr** headlined as guest performers along with The Essence Pageantry System reigning court and my children **Diamond Frantz**, **Leah Halston, Jacobie Ross, Trevon Ross, Dynasty Escada Ross,** & **Kenna Ross**. The "Mouth of the South" **Cookie LaCook** was very nice due to my blood family bein in attendance. Even Miss Black Texas **Alfredda Payne** (a former Miss Essence) was spectator at the "Black and Gold Affair". **Black Stylez Entertainment** also was on hand to video for the occassion. I would like to thank Yosmein C. Starr for being a positive national figure, **Elliott Productions, Clikque Magazine, Rande Rochelle**, and **Incognito** and its staff for assisting me with their support at the Gala.

Crownscoping in Chicago, IL. September 4-6, I along with **Bruce Chivers,** CEO of Elliott Productions and **Tony Lane,** President of Essence Pageantry attended the **Miss Continental Pageant**. The weather was warm and we had a nice view from our Days Inn Lakeshore Hotel. According to **Ginger Grant** (former Miss Continental Plus & Contest coordinator) there were only thirty-seven (37)contestants left by the time preliminaries started Sunday night.

On the final night the top thirteen were called. Usually a standard of a top twelve is selected to be finalist. As "Fierce" predicted **Silky O'hara Monroe**, **Tommie Ross, Alexis Gabrielle Sherrington**, and **Sasha Valentino** made their presence known. Also answering the top thirteen rolecall were **Amelia Black** and **Fantasia. Revlon Lord** also made a lasting impression as she 'burnt the building' in talent. Everyone in attendance can say that this years event was very entertaining and good competition.

As the pageant owner **Mr. Jim Flint** began to announce the results of the nineteenth annual contest the entire audience was silent and my thoughts were evaluating on how I felt the decisions would be. The balcony occupants appeared to be on pins and needles as the first name of Fourth runner-up was appointed to Sasha Valentino (a former Miss Black Universe). **Michelle Mitchell** was given third runner-up, **Courtney Van Wales** who was the preliminary winner with her illusion of Madonna in talent was elevated to second runner-up. **Floridian Erica Norrell** was announced as first alternate. A former Miss USA, Miss Gay National, Miss Gay World, And Miss Liberty International was crowned Miss Continental.Her name is "The incomperable" **Tommie Ross**.

Miss Liberty International 99 **Aszia** was on hand for pleasant conversation. Paris Frantz also a sweetheart was in attendance with her informative views. **Candy Wilson** of Savannah, Georgia and owner of Mr&Miss National Sweetheart joined us for brunch. "Fierce" caught up with **Niesha Dupree** the Mother of ATL and my godmother viewing the pageant from the balcony during prelims. I greeted **Joe Jackson** and **Tim Bolhart** near the bar as they were enjoying the competition. Tasha Long was a guest entertainer this year with her 'three diva mix'. Tony lane and Bruce Chivers were very pleased with the professionalism of the exhibition. We would also like to thank a former Mr. Liberty

International **Johnny Thomas** for being a wonderful chaperone.

Next month we will focus on the Black Universe pageant in Atlanta. "Fierce" feels that **Jasmine Bonet** and **Necole Luv Dupree** will make their presence known. **Al Dupree** and **Terrence D'Andre** will also be well prepared for the battle. Good luck guys!

Keith Kennard owner of The Black USA System is also getting ready for his 7th year of being a national. The contest will be on December 18th at **Club Colours** in Richmond, Virginia.

Coming along in a very positive way, is the Miss Clikque America Pageantry System. On October 8th, the Miss Clikque New Orleans Prelim will be held at Rubyfruit Jungle and once again it will set standards just like the past two prelims in Houston and Atlanta. **If any one's interested in owning a prelim in Chicago, Detroit, New York City, Philadelphia, & Richmond, VA to Miss Clikque America please call Nestor here at Clikque and he will assist you.**

Thank you **Lady Jonel** & **JJ Productions** for your support. I will recommend female contestants to participate in your contest.

Thank you **Dwight Powell** for inviting me to display my literary and informative talents with Clikque Magazine and making me a part of a positive national forum.

I am available to judge your pageant, coordinate, or cover your events just let me know at least three weeks in advance.

On a sad note, during one's life you meet few people whom you can call a friend. I attended the homegoing services for the CEO of **Bam Boo Productions** and the owner of The Esscentric **Miss Globe Pageant**. **T. Armoni Sloan** will deeply be missed. We at Clikque Magazine would like to commend her for following her dreams. She made contributions to the magazine, the community and her peers. Sloan was the owner of Miss Black Texas Universe & Mid-America Universe just to name a few. I personally thank her for being an acquaintance of mine. Those that knew her will always remember her sense of humor, frankness, and generosity.

Until next time,
Remmington signing out.

1-800-546-MENN 6366 For Boys • 1-800-326-MEET 6338 For Girls

Call one of the numbers above and place a **FREE PERSONAL AD** that will print in next months issue of Clikque Magazine. Adults 18+ Only.

Clikque Connection — Men Seeking Men

CALIFORNIA

SHOW ME THE ROPES Handsome SM, 37, 6'0", 200 lbs., enjoys rock climbing, sailing. Seeking SM to have adventures with. ☎20016

LET'S HOOK UP GWM, 45, 5'11", 180 lbs, 5'11", looking for other GWM to get together with. Race unimportant. (Santa Anna) ☎21469

BOTTOM LOOKING FORA TOP If you're serious and looking for a good time, leave me a message. Call me soon, I really need a hot top. (San Francisco) ☎14537

SHOW ME SOMETHING NEW Mexican-German M, looking for a friend to have fun with. I'm kind of shy and need someone to show me the ropes. If you're interested in showing some new ways to have fun, give me a call. (San Diego) ☎18549

LET'S HOOK UP SBM, 6'0", enjoys working out. Seeking someone special. (Los Angeles) ☎10037

MANIC PASSIONATE Heavy-set Mexican-American M, mid 30s, moderately hairy, beard, easygoing, laid-back, responsible, good-hearted and a romantic. Looking for muscular-stocky Latino/WM, late 20s-late 40s, with a good sense of humor. Muscular legs and hairy a plus. (Los Angeles) ☎17427

JUST ASK If you want a submissive, feminine M, who will do anything your heart desires, call me. (Victorville) ☎10798

I LOVE LATINOS Young, nice-looking GBM, new to the area, seeking Latino/HM, 18-24, with a respectable attitude. No Games. (Torrance) ☎15504

FLORIDA

FUN AND MORE Very attractive, bottom, 5'11", 170 lbs, brown/blue, goatee, swimmers build, available for fun and recreation with top and versatile tops. (Gainesville) ☎17758

COOL SOUTH AFRICAN BROTHER BM, 32, 5'6", brown-skinned, hairy chest, looking to meet a very attractive top Guys, 23+, to hook up with. (Miami) ☎17779

BE MY GIRL 27-year-old BM, looking for TV/TS, who want to have a good time with me. Give me a call. (Jacksonville) ☎19173

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR 50-year-old GM, college-educated, looking for young, attractive, hairy WM, for possible romance. ☎14006

GEORGIA

IS THIS YOU? Jay would like to meet an out-going, sensitive, honest SM, who wants to have alot of fun. (Atlanta) ☎21956

LOW-KEY GUY Good-looking, in shape, 38-year-old GWM, 5'9", 165 lbs., stable, n/drugs, varied interests. Seeking SM for dating, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎21781

SEEKING SIMILAR BM Very masculine BM, 5'7", 150 lbs, attractive, muscular and looking for a muscular, masculine BM, for friendship and possibly more. (Atlanta) ☎21586

MUST BE DISCREET Looking for a straight-acting brother for friendship and possible relationship. If you're down with that, leave me a message. Peace. (Atlanta) ☎20181

ISO A LIGHT-SKINNED BROTHER Black/Filipino/Puerto Rican M, 21, 5'4", 130 lbs, blonde/brown, looking for a light-skinned brother, 21-28, who's tall and built with a gorgeous body. ☎19400

I'M ALL THAT Very romantic BM, 5'7", medium brown, likes movies, hiking and walks in the park. Looking for a BM, 18-30, to hook up with. No fats and no femmes. (Atlanta) ☎17447

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP Looking for a nice, fun-loving Guy who loves dining out, movies and long walks. If this is you, give me a call. (Decatur) ☎13272

GOOD TIMES 23-year-old BM, very masculine, works outs and looking for good times with exciting people. (Atlanta) ☎19510

NO GAME PLAYERS Married, down-to-earth BM, 5'10", slim, D/D free. Seeking nice, out-going BM, 26-35, no games. (Atlanta) ☎19884

I'LL BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND 29-year-old, passable BCD, 5'9", 160 lbs, pecan-tanned, clean, discreet, ISO a secure Gentleman who knows what he wants and who has a sensitive side. (Savannah) ☎18756

JUST HAVING FUN 39-year-old dark-skinned BM, looking for Guys, around my age, to hang out and have fun with. (Georgia) ☎17612

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT Straight-acting, Married WM, 30s, 6'1", 210 lbs, long brown hair, hairy chest, seeking a passive BiM, who likes X-rated videos and exploring. (Atlanta) ☎17748

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 lbs, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth Latino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick it with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, leave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

TO RESPOND TO ADS...

...Browse Or Retrieve Messages, Call The 900 or 800 Numbers Below

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the clikque connection

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 lbs, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth Latino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick it with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, leave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

I NEED IT REAL BAD Bi-curious BM, looking for someone to teach what this is like. Can you teach me? (Savannah) ☎20427

SKIN TO SKIN CONTACT Straight-acting Married M, 6'1", 200 lbs, long brown/blue, seeking slender, well-endowed BiM, who likes giving and receiving, oral and anal. Discretion expected and assured. Race unimportant. (Atlanta) ☎19150

ILLINOIS

NEED A HUG? Tall, masculine WM, seeking tall, masculine BM, with an insatiable desire to hug and be hugged. (Chicago) %21737

LOOKS UNIMPORTANT Smooth, well-endowed GWM, 27, 180 lbs, 5'10", black/blue, likes sports, movies, dining gout, going out and having fun. Looking for a Latino/WM, 20-30, for friendship or possible long-term relationship. Nonsmoker and social drinker referred. (Chicago) ☎20105

I LOVE DRESSING UP Very hot, sexy CD in Chicago, looking for someone to play with and have fun with in the area. Leave me a message, I promise I'll call you back. (Chicago) ☎13469

TOP SEEKS BOTTOMS Dominant WM, 45, well-endowed, attractive, looking for smooth, submissive bottoms. Race unimportant. ☎13324

MICHIGAN

SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT? Nice-looking BM, looking for a good-looking BM, 22-42, 5'8"-6', to hang out with and possibly start a relationship. Let's get together and get to know each other. (Detroit) ☎11266

I'LL DO ANYTHING Good-looking BM looking for a hardcore Man who likes to do anything. If you're interested, call me up and we'll get together. (Detroit) ☎19650

NEW YORK

I LIKE LOTS OF THINGS 37-year-old M, really into oral and likes lots of things. Looking for an older Guy, 40-55, who would be interested in getting together with me. (New York) ☎19264

EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE Very active, good-natured, retired, daddy type, who wants to enjoy the rest of his life with a couple of young Guys. Must be W/H, 20s, 6'+, good-looking, reliable, health conscious, into working out and have six pack abs. (New York) ☎17556

TENNESSEE

BORING GUY? 26-year-old BM, 5'11", 184 lbs., dredlocks, brown eyes, enjoys cooking, reading, running, cleaning, employed, dogs. If interested, leave a message. (Memphis) ☎21869

LET'S CHILL Sexy, brown-skinned BM, 6'1", 150 lbs. Seeking SM, for friendship, possibly more. (Memphis) ☎10531

JUST FUN 35-year-old WM, brown/blue, tanned, toned and looking to meet a BM, 21-35, in the Memphis area, for a no strings, hot, sexual relationship. (Memphis) ☎21822

TEXAS

NOT A SEX AD! 42-year-old GBM, 5'11", average-looking big Guy with a great personality, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times. Seeking SM sincere, genuine to form a monogamous relationship. No games (Dallas) ☎21673

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

SKIN TIGHT LEVIS Professional swimmer, 5'8", 140 lbs, tanned, muscular, shaved, looking for a down-to-earth Guy, who likes swimming, working out, music, having fun and a lot of body contact. (Dallas) ☎21475

IS THAT YOU? Young BM, 5'8", heavy -set, brown/brown, looking for that special someone to share life with. (Houston) ☎19892

TRYING TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE BM, 21, 5'9", 160 lbs, smooth, slender build, very attractive, masculine and outgoing, looking for some cool people to hang with. Not really looking for a sexual relationship, right now, just friendship. ☎19913

BI GUY PREFERRED BM, 25, 5'5", 140 lbs, nice body, looking for a mature BIM, 30-50. No fats and no femmes. (Houston) ☎12765

POSSIBLITIES Bottom GHM, 37, smoker, drinker who loves to please his partner. Looking for a top W/HM. If you would love to start a new friendship with the possibility of a long-term relationship. ☎21406

HIT ME UP! 21-year-old BM, 5'9", 145 lbs, attractive, sexy and toned. Seeking a masculine, muscular, attractive Latino/BM who want to get with me. ☎20366

Clikque Connection Women Seeking Women

CALIFORNIA

LET'S HANG OUT GBF, 36, 5'7", 155 lbs., enjoys reading, walks, outdoors. Seeking SF who can give their time, must like to have fun, friends first. (Los Angeles) ☎22011

NEW TO THE AREA African-American Female, 33, two children. Seeking SF, 40+, preferably White, no ex-cons, 12-steppers, smokers, druggies, heavy drinkers or hang ups, must be positive and like children. (Los Angeles) ☎21948

I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU 37-year-old, feminine F, 5'3", brown/brown, Looking for a very open-minded, down-to-earth H/AF who like dining out, playing pool, dancing, movies, bowling and having a good time. All calls returned. ☎20711

ELECTIVE FEMME Very sensitive, spiritual African-American Woman, 40-ish, 5'9", vegetarian, loves film, drama, jazz, visual arts, the environment, walks by the ocean and nature. Looking for a vegetarian, feminine, spiritual, artistic Woman of color, who's independent and has similar interests. ☎18670

IS THIS YOU? Then call this sexy, assertive Femme, stable, loving, compassionate, drug-free, healthy, n/s, seeking sensitive Butch Woman, to share life with me, must love animals, must be sensitive, drug-free. (San Diego) ☎21620

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED 36-year-old PF, 5'6", 135 lbs, attractive, athletic, likes going out, walking, movies and romantic evenings at home. Seeking the same in a compatible Woman. If you're interested, give me a call. (Los Angeles) ☎19793

GEORGIA

BE REAL 30-year-old GBF seeking a real friend 25-35, great sense of humor, out-going, honest, for friendship, possible relationship. (Jonesboro) ☎21686

CALL ME SBF, enjoys movies, the beach, outings and watching tv. Looking for someone who's friendly, fun, open-minded and into travel. If you're looking for friendship and fun times, then call me. ☎11588

TURN ME ON Attractive, attached BiWF, 25, 5'2", 152 lbs, reddish-brown, looking for another Woman, 18-30, in the area to get together and explore new experiences. (Norcross) ☎19604

FEMALE BONDING 37-year-old Lesbian, looking for a proud, sincere, fit, feminine Lady who loves life, travel and spending time with someone special. I look forward to hearing from you. (Atlanta) ☎15429

ILLINOIS

ENJOY THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE? Affectionate, feminine, SBGF 23, 5'7", shapely but full-figured. Seeking SGF who enjoys the finer things in life. (Chicago) ☎21791

TENNESSEE

FRIENDSHIP FIRST SBF, looking for another BF to explore another side of life. This is my first time, so please be gentle. (Memphis) ☎14363

MY FAVORITE THINGS 27-year-old, feminine GBF, looking for GF for long walks, midnight talks and romantic evenings under the sunset. (Memphis) ☎21155

TEXAS

LICKABLE BiBF, 5'6", 140lbs, looking for a F to talk to and have a relationship with. (Houston) ☎20150

VIRGINIA

HELLO NURSE! 27-year-old BF, with three children, looking for a nice Lady who likes dining out, reading and having a nice time, for friendship and possible relationship. ☎16652

STEPPINGOUT

Your Premiere Guide To Clubs Across America

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below.

ATLANTA, GA

BACKSTREET ATLANTA
845 Peachtree Street (Rear Entrance) 404-873-1986. Always Open & Pouring. Membership Required * Membership Available. Hip-Hop Tuesdays w/DJ Biff

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025. Blackest on Fri. & Sat.

CLUB FUSION
550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR
W. Peachtree & 15th St., 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

THE MARQUETTE LOUNGE
809 Martin Luther King Dr. NW

THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THELMA'S PUMP ROOM
836 Juniper, 404-881-9230. Black on Friday Nights for the Best in Female Impersonation.

TRAXX NIGHTCLUB
306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422
Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays Nights Hip-Hop Dance Floor, House & Classics.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

LATROYS
316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE, NC

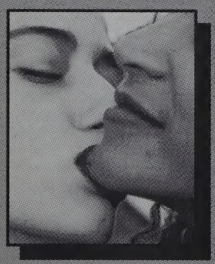
300 STONEWALL
300 E. Stonewall (at S. Blvd.), 704-347-4200

CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566



CLEVELAND, OH

DOMINOS
612 Prospect Ave 216-771-9020.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS
2909 Detroit Av., 216-574-2203. Black on Fri. & Saturdays

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

CLUB ENVY 216 N. Crowdus, 214-742-2708.

DENVER, CO

RAVEN 2217 Welton Street, Fridays & Saturdays

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

ZIPPERS
6221 E. Davison, 313-892-8120

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

GREENSBORO, NC

BABYLON 221 S. Elm Street, 336-275-1006.

GREENVILLE, SC

CLUB NEW ATTITUDE
706 W. Washington St., 864-233-1387

HOUSTON, TX

INCOGNITO- THE CLUB
2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS THE NIGHTCLUB
1318 Westheimer, 713-942-CLUB. Mostly Black Thursdays - Sundays from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS
200 N. Mills St., Downtown, 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

LOS ANGELES, CA

BOYTRADE-EL REY 5525 Wilshire Blvd.

CATCH ONE
4067 W. Pico Blvd., 213-737-1159. Blackest on Saturdays

STUDY
1723 N. Western Ave., 213-464-9551. Watering hole- Black Owned

MEMPHIS, TN

N-COGNITO 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MIAMI/FT. LAUD., FL

LA CAUGE 7900 First Ave. NE, Miami

COPA NIGHTCLUB
2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

CASABLANCA
Hallendale Beach - Off I-95 954-454-8400. Thurday Night all Black, Male Dancers

SUGAR'S
17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday

WATERFRONT
36th Street near Airport., Miami, 305-635-5696. Blackest on Tuesdays

NASHVILLE, TN

THE CONNECTION
901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

THE CHUTE COMPLEX
2535 Franklin Road, 615-297-4571 Blackest on Wednesdays

THE GASLITE
167 1/2 8th Ave.,615-254-1278

THE JUNGLE
306 4th Ave. South, 615-256-9411

NEW ORLEANS, LA

OZ
800 Bourbon Street, 504-593-9491. Opens 24-7.

WOLFENDALE'S
834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

NEW YORK, NY

CLIT CLUB
432 W. 14th St., 212-406-1114. Fridays only Women.

CLUB HOUSE
215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays.

CLUB DOWNTIME
251 W. 30th St. (Between 7th & 8th Ave.) 212-591-1622. Friday Nights for Women Only.

ESCUELITA
301 West 39th St. (Corner of 8th Ave.) 212-631-0588. Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

MANHATTAN MONSTER
80 Grove St., New York, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT
1 Front St., Brooklyn, 718-852-0139.

THE OCTAGON
555 W. 33rd St., New York, 212-947-0400.

THE WAREHOUSE
141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

NEWARK, NJ

MURPHY'S TAVERN
59 Edison Pl., 973-622-9176.

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT
120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

CABEL'S REEF
2272 Telegraph Ave.,510-451-3777. Black dancing Fridays & Saturdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA, FL

CHERAKEE CLUB
1320 E. 9th Ave. 813-247-9966, Tampa, FL. Blackest Fridays

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

PHOENIX, AZ

INCOGNITO
2424 E. Thomas Rd., 602-955-9805. Blackest Friday & Saturday after hours.

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS
536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmond's African-American Club of True Diversity.

RUMOURS II
1008 North Blvd.,804-358-3838

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

THE ENDUP
401 6th St. 415-357-0827. Blackest Sunday afternoon.

THE BOX
628 Divisidaro, 415-647-8258. Multicultural

CLUB Q
177 Townsend St., 415-647-8258. First Friday of Month. Women's Party

TALLAHASSEE, FL

CLUB PARK AVENUE
115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

BROTHERS
926 West Tharpe Street, 850-386-2399. Black Nights-Fridays & Saturdays.

WASHINGTON, DC

BACHELOR'S MILL
1104 8th St. S.E., 202-544-1931.Black Men Dancing Thursday thru Saturday.

CLUB DIVERSITE
1526 14th St. N.W., 202-387-2338.

CLUB SECRETS @ 2:K:9
2009 8th St. NW, 888-594-WISE. Sundays 9pm-Until.

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St. N.E., 202-529-0626. Women on Fridays & Men on Saturdays.

THE EDGE
56 L St. S.E., 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

MR. P'S 2147 P St. N.W., 202-293-9009.

THE BIG HUNT
1345 Connecticut Ave. NW, Hip-Hop Club Sundays 5-11pm.

NOB HILL
1101 Kenyon St. NW, 202-797-1101. Very Friendly Crowd- Black Owned.

TRACKS
1111 First St. SE, 202-488-3320. Black on Friday Nights with Dancers Entertainment.

CLIKQUEBOOKSTAND

YOUR PREMIERE GUIDE TO SOME OF THE BOOKSTORES THAT CARRIES CLIKQUE

Albuquerque, NM
Sisters and Brothers — 505 266 7317 — 4011 Silver Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI
Common Language — 734-663-0036 — 215 S. 4th Ave.
Websters/Nicola's — 734 662-6150 — 2607 Plymouth Rd.

Atlanta, GA
Brushstrokes —404 876 6567 — 1510 Piedmont Ave.
Charis Books & More —404 524 0304 — 1189 Euclid Ave.
Outwrite — 404 607 0082 — 991 Piedmont Ave.

Auburn, MI
Village Books — 360 715 3684 — 1210 11th st

Boston, MA
Glad Day Books — 617 267-3010 — 673 Boylston St

Brimingham, AL
Lodestar Books — 205 939-3356 — 2020 B 11th Ave.

Chicago, IL
Barbara's Bookstore — 708 848-9140 — 1350 N. Wells St
57TH Street Books — 773 684-1300 — 1301 East 57th Street

Columbus, OH
An Open Book — 614-291-0080 — 61 N. High St.

Dallas. TX
Black Images — 214 943-0142 — 230 Wynnewood Village
Crossroad — 214 521 8919 — 3930 Ceder Springs Rd.

Ft. Lauderdale, FL
The Pride Factory — 954-463-6600 — 400 N. Federal Hwy.

Grand Rapids, MI
Sons & Daughters — 616-459-8877 — 962 Cherry SE

Greensboro, SC
White Rabbit Books — 336 272 7604 — 1833 Spring Garden

Houston, TX
Oakland Marketing Inc. — 713 522-7988 — 1953 Richmond
Crossroads — 713-522-7988 — 1111 Westheimer

Ithaca
Borealis Bookstore — 607 272-7752 — 111 N Aurora St.

Key West, FL
Flaming Maggie's — 305 294-3931 — 830 Fleming St.

Las Vegas, NE
Get Booked — 612-825-0336 — 4640 Paradise #15

Memphis, TN
Davis Kidd Bookstores — 901 683-9801 — 397 Perkins Rd.

Miami, FL
Lambda Passages — 305-754-6900 — 7545 Biscayne Blvd.

Minneapolis, MI
A Brothers Touch — 612 377-6279 — 2327 Hennipin Ave.

Nashville, TN
Outloud Books & Gifts — 615-340-0034 — 1709 Church St.

New Hope
Book Gallery — 215-862-5110 — 19 west Mechanic St

New Orleans, LA
Faubourg Marigny Bookstore — 504-943-9875 — 600 Frenchmen
Bookstar — 504 523-6411 — 414 N. Peters

New York City, NY
A Different Light — 800-343-4002 — 151 W. 19th St.

Norfolk, VA
Phoenix Rising — 757-622-3701 — 619-B Colonial

Orlando, FL
Out & About Books — 407-896-0204 — 930 N. Mills Ave

Philadelphia, PN
Giovanni's Room — 215-923-2960 — 345 S. 12th Street

Phoenix, AZ
Obelisk The — 602-266-2665 — 24 W. Camelback #A

Richmond,VA
Phoenix Rising — 804-355-7939 — 19 N. Belmont

Roanoke
Out Word Connections — 540 985-6886 — 114 Kirk Ave.
Carytown — 804 359 4831 — 2930 w. Cary St.

San Deigo, CA
Obelisk The — 619 297-4171 — 1029 University Ave.

San Francisco, CA
A Different Light — 415-431-0891 — 489 Castro St.

Seattle, WA
Beyond the Closet — 206 322-4609 — 518 E. Pike

St. Louis, MO
Left Banks Books — 314 367-6731 — 399 N. Euclid Ave.

Tampa, FL
Tomes & Tresures — 813 251-9368 — 498 S. Howard Ave.

Temple Terrace
Books for Thought — 813 988- 6363 — 10910 N. 56th Street

West Hollywood, CA
A Different Light — 310-854-6601 — 8853 Santa Monica Blvd.

Washington, DC
Lambda Rising — 202-462-6969 — 1625 Connecticut Ave. NW
Vertigo Books — 202-429-9272 — 1337 Connecticut Ave. NW

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

Continued from page 63

"Did he touch you William?" And with that question, William's manly tears increased and became a fountain. He was no longer a man, but a scared, confused child, crying out for help. Craig reached out and hugged him tightly. And there they stood in a tight embrace. William sobbing and Craig's heart crying, too. They were both men, yet, at this moment, Craig somehow was more of a man than William could ever imagine.

****

Outside, Cicely parked her car. She smelled of expensive perfume and body spray. She checked her lips and her hair as she opened her driver side door. Dressed only in black pumps and a black trench coat, she stepped out of her car. She pressed her remote key chain and her headlights flashed to confirm that her car alarm was set. She licked her lips one last time as she dropped her keys in her coat pocket. As she walked, her perfume left a trail of a sexy aroma. The sexy sound of her heels clicked and echoed as she entered William's breezeway. William did not notice that his door was cracked just slightly. This would often happen when he didn't lock it after closing it. It would sometimes spring back open. As Cicely approached the door, she inhaled deeply and smiled as she thought of her riding William's beautiful, massive dick. She reached out to knock. As she did so, the door slowly opened to a scene that almost made her collapse. There was William, with tears in his eye, in an embrace with another man. She recognized the man. It was William's neighbor from upstairs.

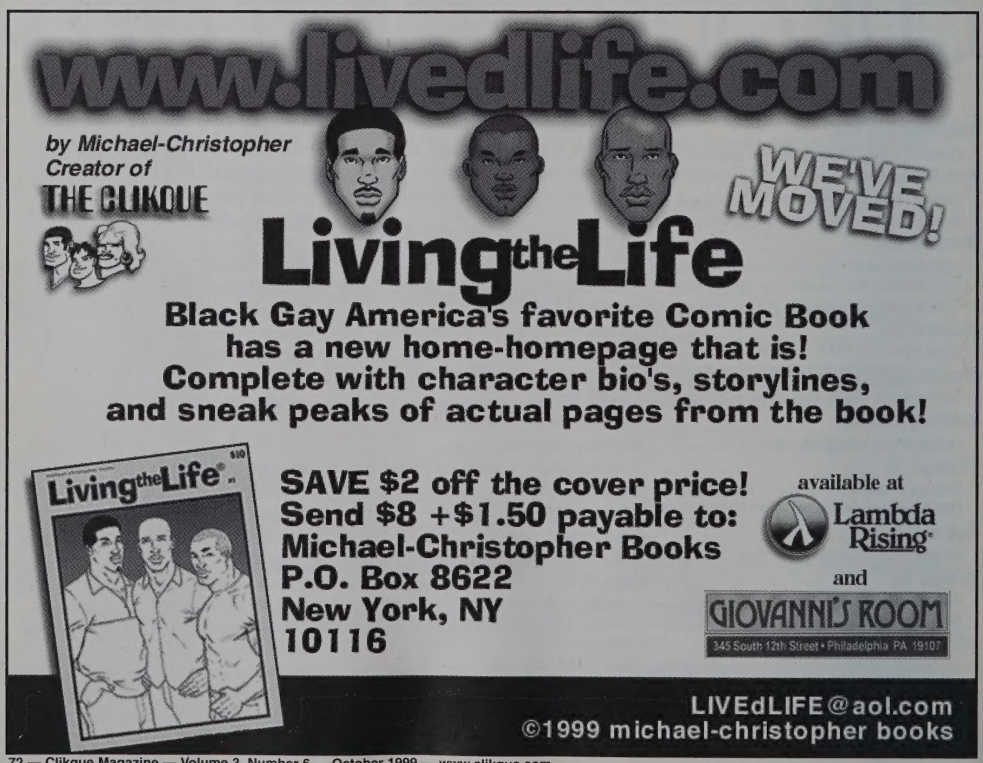
"What the fuck is this? William, is this that faggot you told me about from upstairs?" she asked as she rolled her eyes and flipped her hair. Craig looked at her and his heart immediately broke into pieces. William looked at her then back at Craig. Craig looked William in the eyes and pushed him away. Almost in tears himself, he walked towards the door and looked Cicely in the eye and said, "Look, bitch, I have never hit a female in my life, but I'm always taking applications for the first. So if you ever...ever call me a faggot again, you've got the job, bitch!" and he pushed her aside and vanished into the night. Cicely turned away from him and looked back at William

"What the fuck was that about?" William just sat there shaking his head in disbelief and wiping his eyes.

"What...Are you a fucking faggot too, now?" she smirked. William's head stopped shaking and he slowly raised his eyes to her.

"Get the fuck out."

To Be Continued- Next Month



Mr. & Miss Black Universe 1999/2000

Birth Of The Millennium

Preliminaries: October 28th & 29th ■ Ramada Inn Grand Ballroom ■ 418 Armour Dr. ■ 800-282-8222

Finals: October 30th ■ Host Hotel: Sheraton Colony Square Ballroom ■ 188 14th St. ■ 404-892-6000

For Additional Information Contact Archie @ 404-320-3338 or Niesha @ 770-216-8499

For All Your Travel Needs Call 404-634-5708 ■ Host Hotel Code: Mr. & Ms. BU

The 15th Annual
Mr. & Miss Black America
The 4th Annual
Miss Black America Plus
Featuring:
Majesty: Mr. Black America
Yosmine Campbell Starr: Miss BA
Amarda Korday: Miss BA Plus
Categories:
Interview
Presentation
All that glitter,sparkle & shine
Sportswear
Non-seasonal . No Mix Match & No Costume
Talent
7 minutes & 3 minutes set-up
Evening Gown / Formal
No beads, stones, sequents
Question & Answer
Top 5 contestants
Entry Fee: $150
Rehersals @ 2PM
The Black America Pageantry System
For More Info Call
Gerald or Brian
678-309-0147 HM
404-405-6264 VM
770-566-2200 Pager
Preliminary Nights
November 17th & 18
9PM @ Traxx — 306 Luckie St.
Final Night
November 19th
7PM @ Centre Stage

The 6th Annual Mr. & Miss Club Colours Pageant 1999/2000

Saturday November 27th

Contestants will compete in the following categories:

Miss Club Colours
Color Presentation
Club Wear
Evening Gown
Q&A
Talent
*Color presentation will be one solid color

Mr. Club Colours
Color Presentation
Sports Wear
Formal Wear
Q&A
Talent
*Color presentation will be one solid color

Orientation @2PM

PRIZE PACKAGE
Winners: Over $1,500 in cash and prizes

First Runner Up
$100

Second Runner Up
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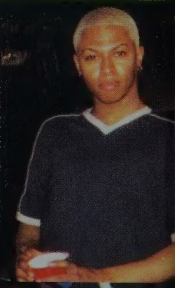

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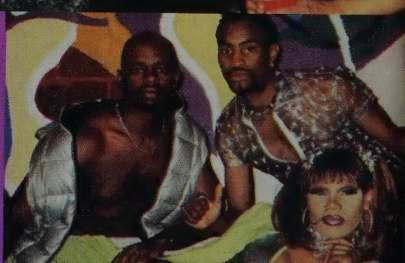

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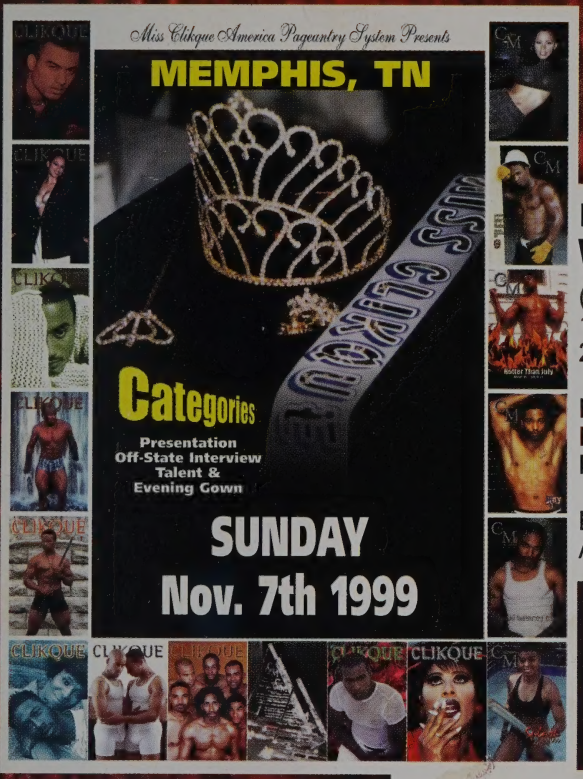

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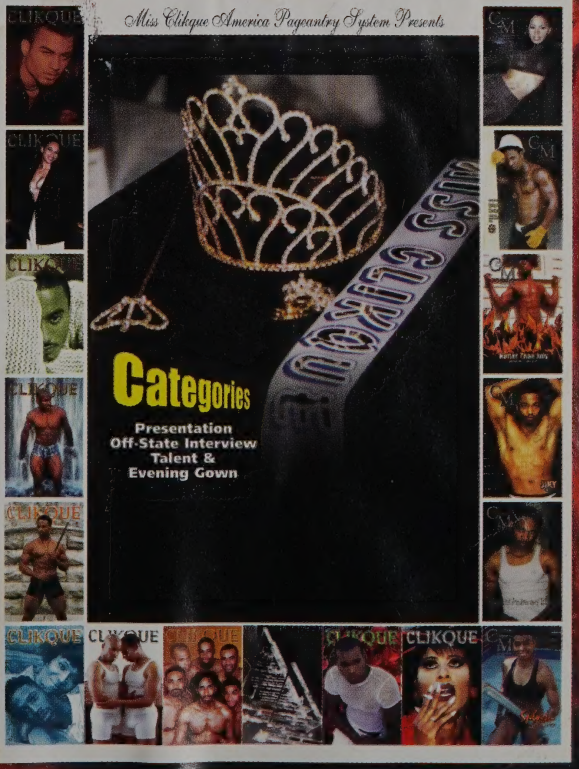

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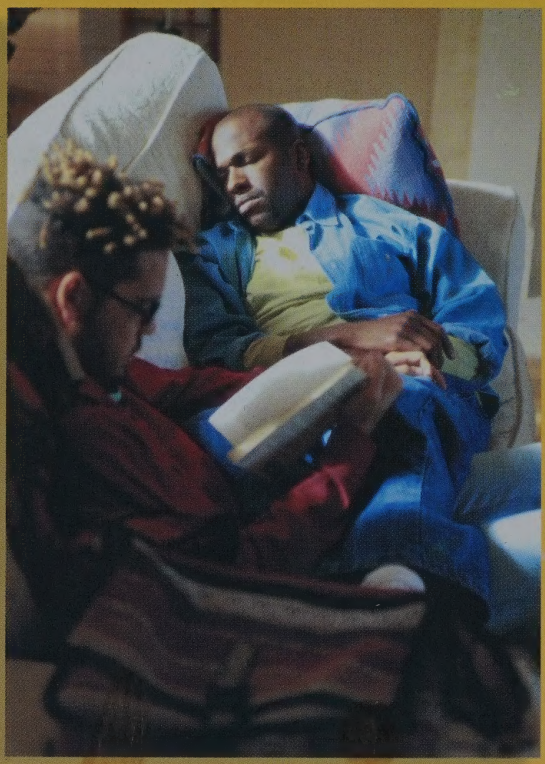

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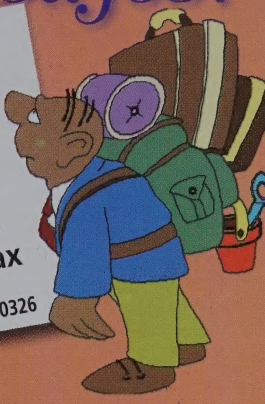

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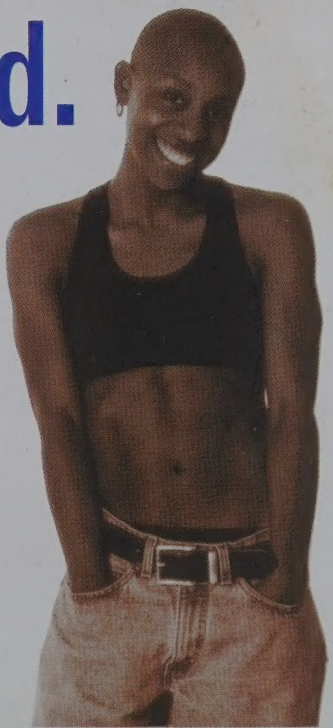

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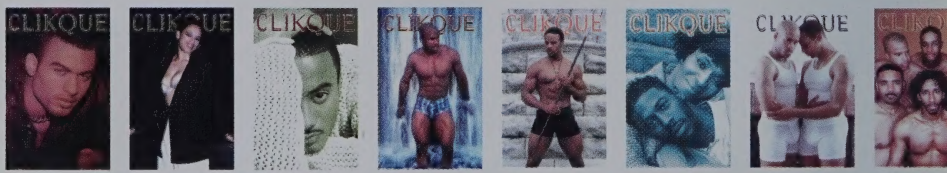

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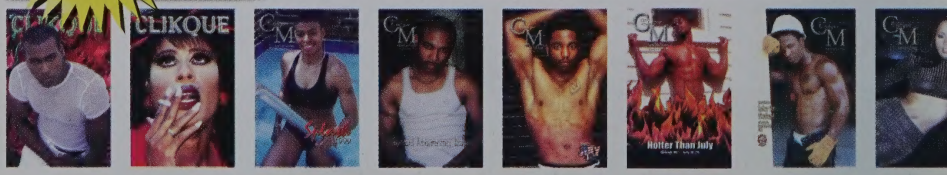
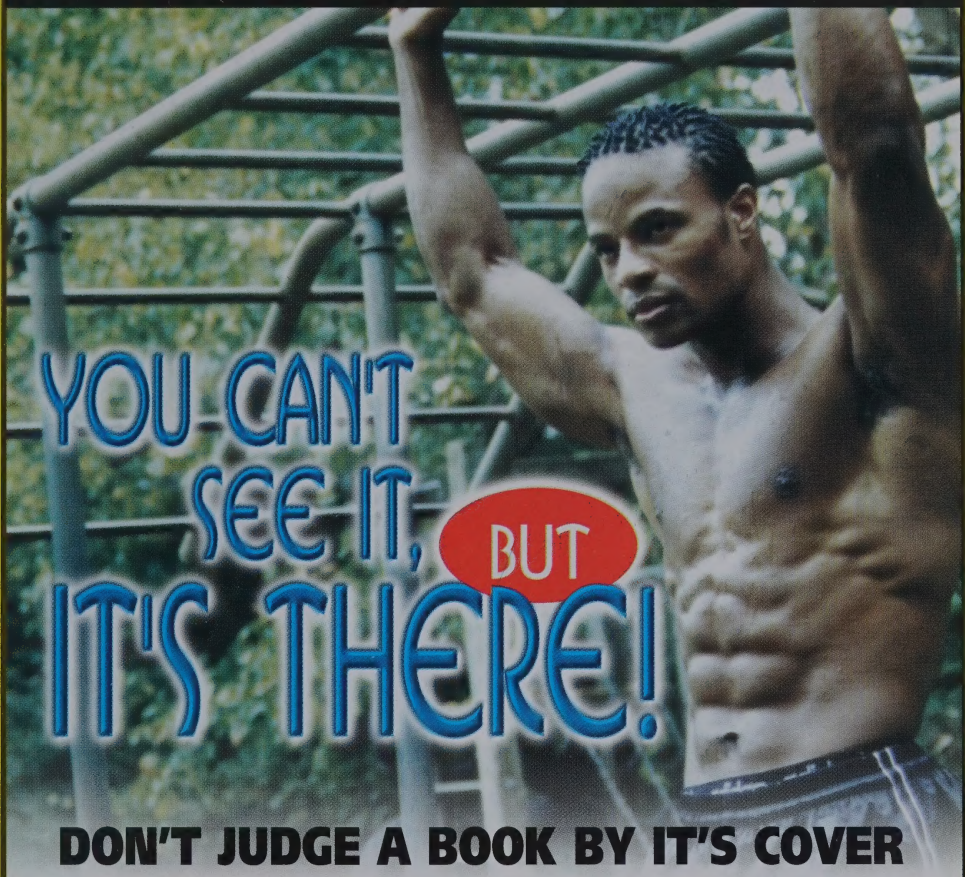


Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Model Represented Here Is Being Used For Illustration Only. His HIV status is not known

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

HIV Comes in various packages. There are white ones, black ones, big ones, small ones, short ones, tall ones, sexy ones, and not so sexy ones. You can't identify an HIV infected person by just looking at them. Therefore, always use a Latex Condom and a waterbased lubricant when intimate with that special person. When used properly, latex condoms are effective against HIV, STDs and Pregnancies

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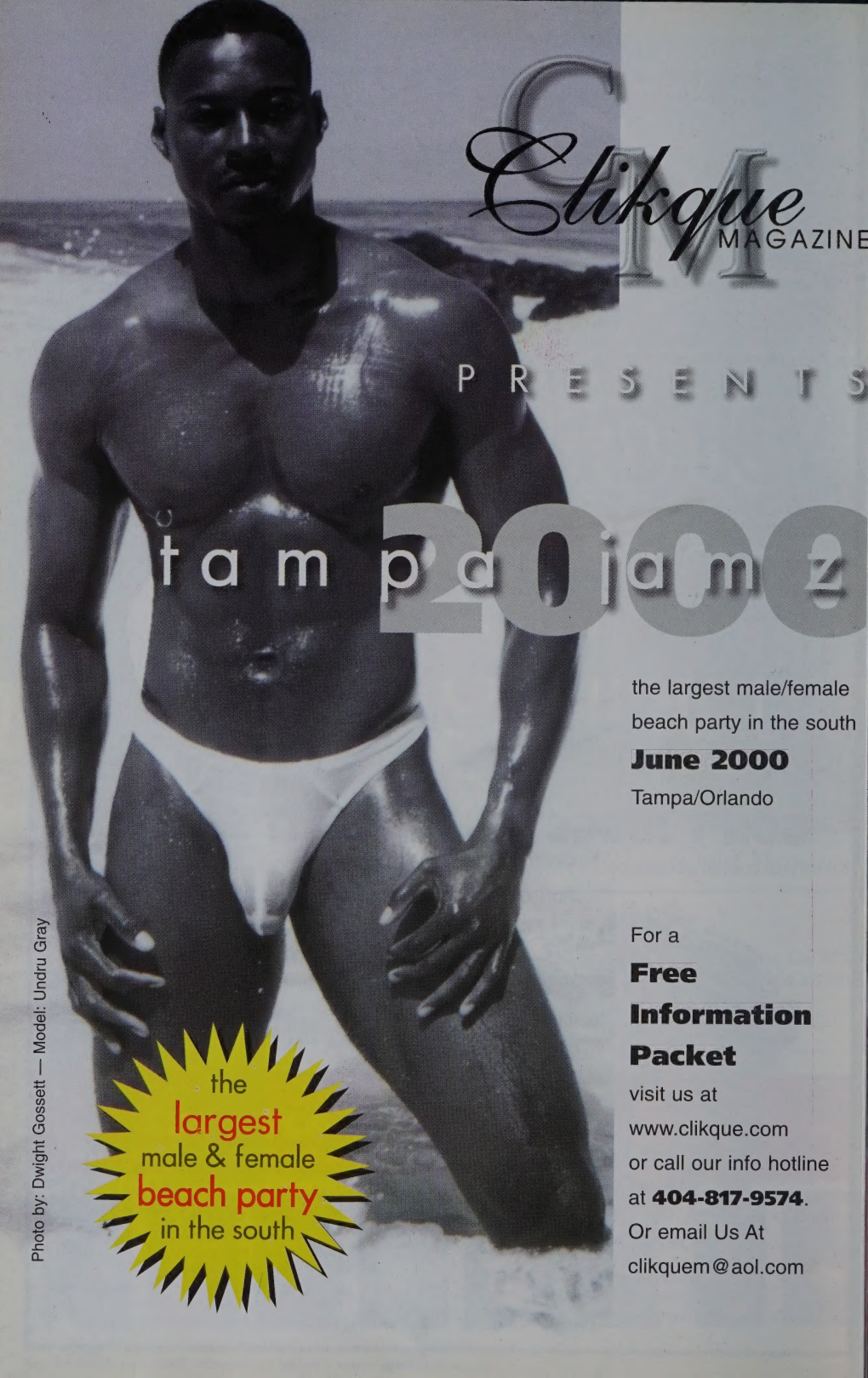
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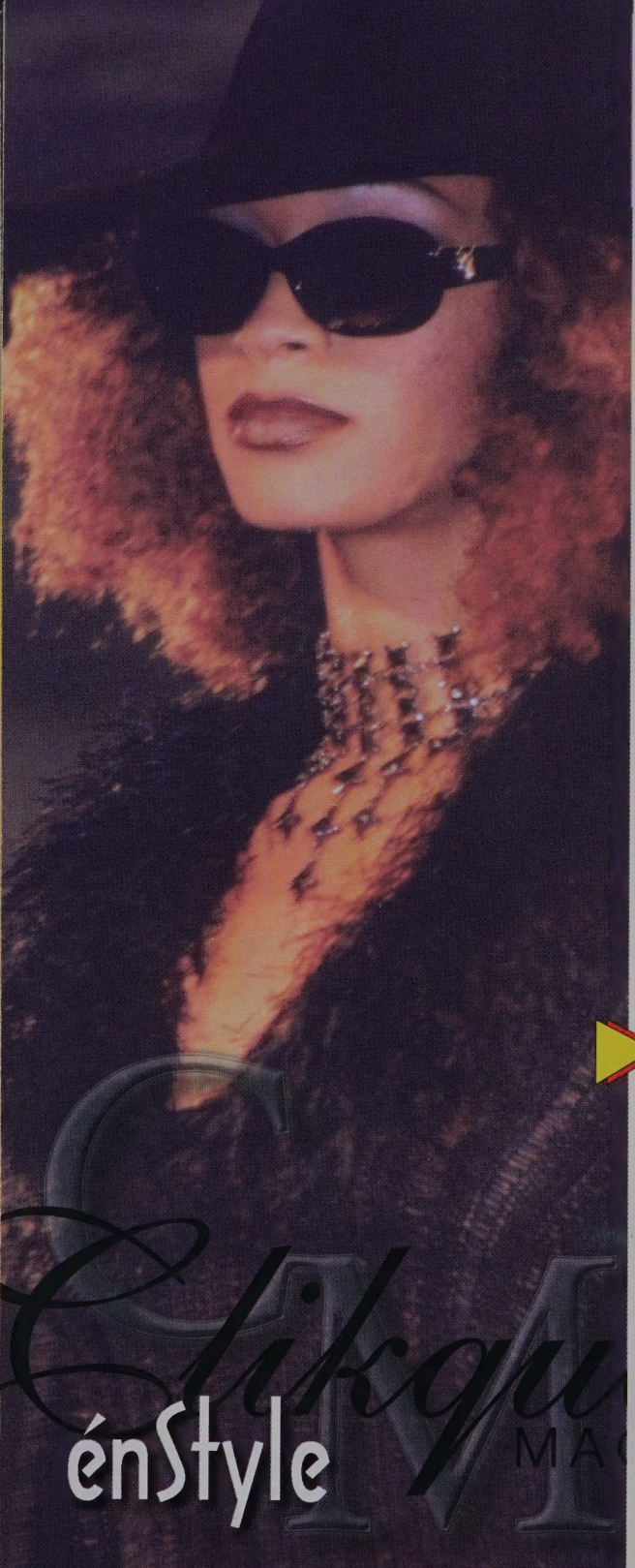

Clikque MAGAZINE

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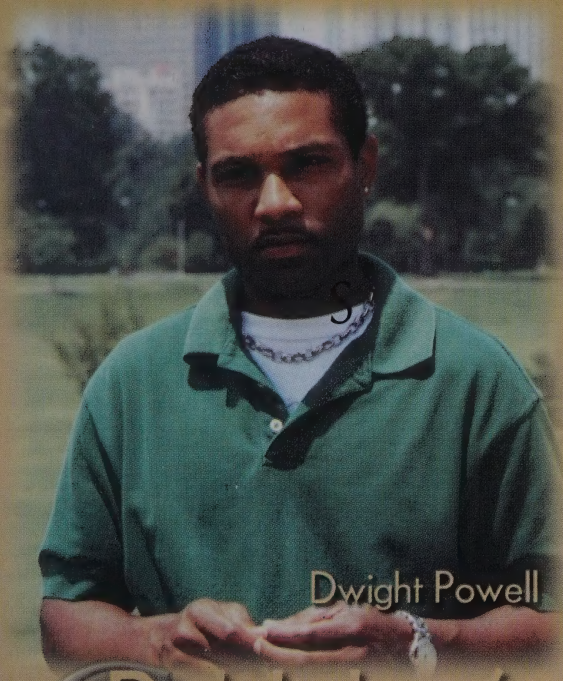

Publisher's Message

Clikque MAGAZINE

OK, by now some of you are probably asking yourself, Where are those guys at Clikque trying to go with this issue? Who are they trying to please? Well, first of all, it is you that we are trying to please...all of YOU! And it is in trying to please everyone that we often find ourselves running into walls. Walls, my friends, that we will prove aren't tall or long enough to prevent us from finding our happy place. While we acknowledge that we will never be able to please everyone, we will try our best to come as close as possible in attempts of doing just that.

As a loyal reader and supporter of Clikque Magazine, we would like to keep you inform about the course that we have charted for ourselves. Although we don't have any intentions of totally doing away with the flashy, skinned ads and features, we will however, reduce the amount of such material printed in each issue. Our Magazine is young, and still in it's early developmental stages. We trust that you will continue to support and enjoy the ride with us.

We will only get better with time.

Message of the month

The Following Is Chapter 6 of:
Don't Sweat The Small Stuff
by Richard Carlson, PH.D.

Remind Yourself that When You Die, Your "In Basket" Won't Be Empty

So many of us live our lives as if the secret purpose is to somehow get everything done. We stay up late, get up early, avoid having fun, and keep our loved ones waiting. Sadly, I've seen many people who put off their loved ones so long that the loved ones lose interest in maintaining the relationship. I used to do this myself. Often, we convince ourselves that our obsession with our "to do" list is only temporary—that once we get through the list, we'll be calm, relaxed, and happy. But in reality, this rarely happens. As items are checked off, new ones simply replace them.

The nature of your "in basket" is that it's meant to have items to be completed in it—it's not meant to be empty. There will always be phone calls that need to be made, projects to complete, and work to be done. In fact, it can be argued that a full "in basket" is essential for success. It means your time is in demand!

Regardless of who you are or what you do, however, remember that nothing is more important than your own sense of happiness and inner peace and that of your loved ones. If you're obsessed with getting everything done, you'll never have a sense of well-being! In reality, almost everything can wait. Very little in our work lives truly falls into the "emergency" category. If you stay focused on your work, it will all get done in due time.

I find that if I remind myself (frequently) that the purpose of life isn't to get it all done but to enjoy each step along the way and live a life filled with love, it's far easier for me to control my obsession with completing my list of things to do. Remember, when you die, there will still be unfinished business to take care of. And you know what? Someone else will do it for you! Don't waste any more precious moments of your life regretting the inevitable.

AIDS WALK ATLANTA '99

Minority Groups Support In Record Numbers

Walk Of A Lifetime

Atlanta- GA--

Walkers set their sights on success and achieve pay-dirt raising well over $1.5 million, with additional pledges and contributions still coming in. The 1999 AIDS Walk in Atlanta was the city's biggest success in the events 9 year history. The event is AID Atlanta's annual major fundraiser which also supports at least 14 other local groups and organizations. Anthony McWilliams, AID Atlanta's African American Gay Outreach Program Coordinator, tells Clikque that "turn out was very well... from an African American perspective... it was a day we all come together...it was definately a success." He also notes that there were over 800 organizations (walking teams) represented this year. Clikque identified a serious African American contingency from well known local organizations to a myriad of walkers from within major corporations and organizations from the Atlanta area.

This year's theme revolved around regular people, not celebrities, responding to the call to fight the epidemic from a personal space. Responding to the call with statements ranging from promises made, personal commitment, and hope for the future, Atlantan's proved with their ***feet and funds*** that the commitment is deeper than *word soup!*

For those of us at Piedmont Park the walkers represented the most beautiful array of people- from all walks of life we came: mothers, fathers, grandparents, cousins, women, men, teenagers, babies, walkers with pets, walkers with partners, walkers in wheelchairs... walkers proving that together, and with a purpose, we can achieve and succeed. Imagine if we could build on the momentum and use it to tear down the walls of racism, sexism, homophobia, genderism, ageism, and religiousism. Sunday, October 17, 1999 Atlanta proved it is possible. On that day history, herstory, OURstory was made. What happens next is up to us.

Umoja & Nia 2000
(Unity and Purpose)

Peace.

by: *Darryl!*- for Clikque Magazine

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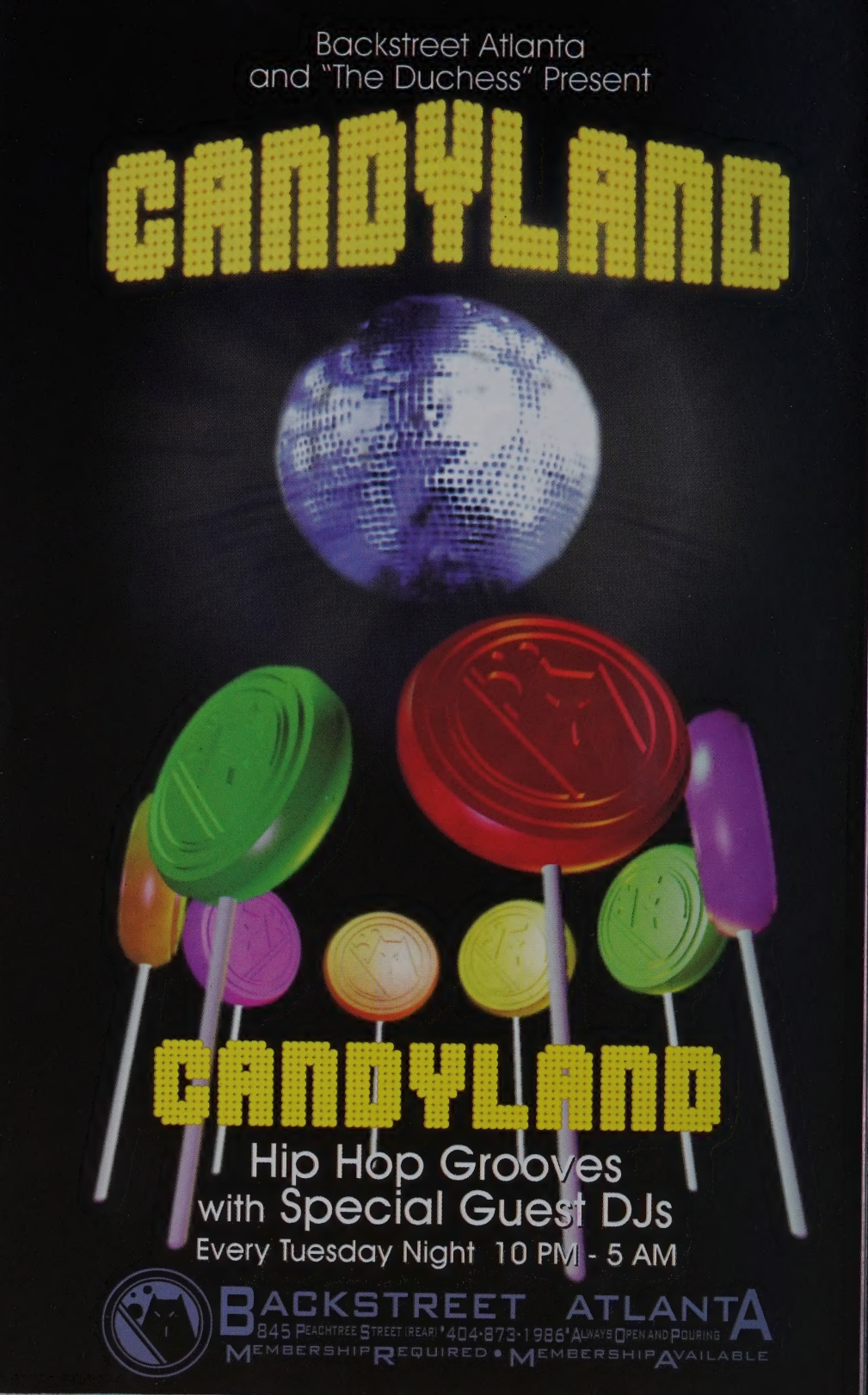
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PUBLISHER / EDITOR
Dwight Powell

COPY EDITOR
Darryl! L.C. Moch

OFFICE MANAGER / COVER COORDINATOR
Nestor Zapata

ART DIRECTOR / GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dwight Powell

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Ren Farmer

HIV / AIDS EDITORIALS
Don Sneed - Dallas, Tx.

BOOK EDITOR
Alaric Blair- Atlanta, Ga.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Anthony Rucker - Gainesville, Fl.

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS
Scott Bogan - Atlanta, Ga.
Todd Edwards - Austin, Tx.

STAFF WRITERS
Parker Bridges- Atlanta, Ga.
Danny Chislom - Atlanta, Ga.
Queshan Hayes - Atlanta, Ga.
Curdell "Doc" Hoskins Jr. - Atlanta, Ga.
Khalid Idawu - Atlanta, Ga.
Lee Jones - Louisville, Ky.
Dorian Kelley-Jahman - Atlanta, Ga.
Darryl! L.C. Moch- Atlanta, Ga.
Liz Marshall- Detroit, MI
Jason Michael- Detroit, MI
Remmington Ross- Houston, Tx.
Victor J. Stewart- Atlanta, Ga.
Craig Washington- Atlanta, Ga.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Sherri Jackson- Chicago, IL
David S. Landay- New York, NY
James Martin- Atlanta, Ga.
Pharaoh- Washington, DC
George Van Pinkard- Atlanta, Ga.

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Dwight Powell, Nestor Zapata, Jason Michael

CARTOONIST
Michael Christopher

OWNER / PUBLISHER Dwight Powell
CO-OWNER Nestor Zapata
MARKETING Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc
EVENTS COORDINATOR Victor J. Stewart
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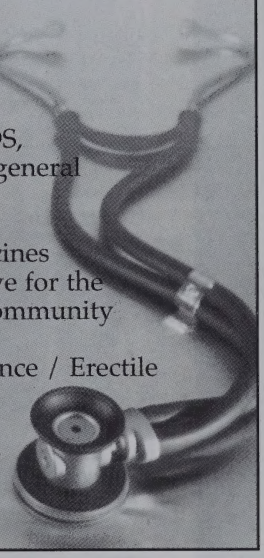

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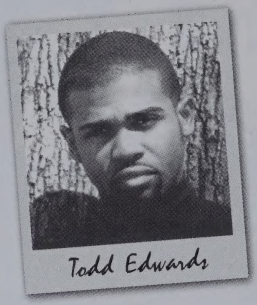
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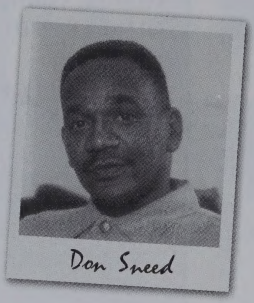
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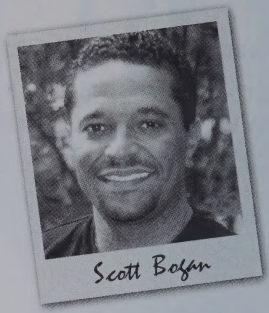
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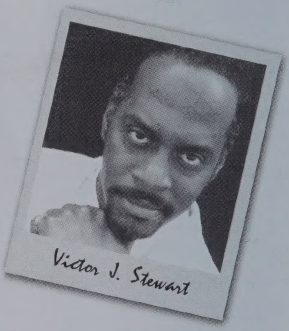
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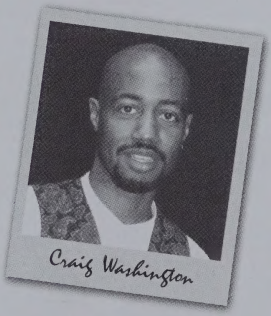
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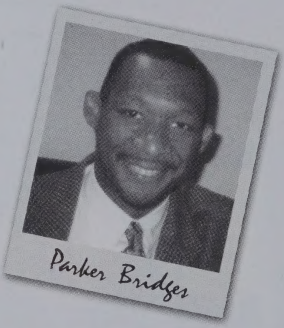
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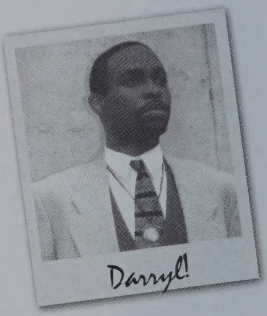
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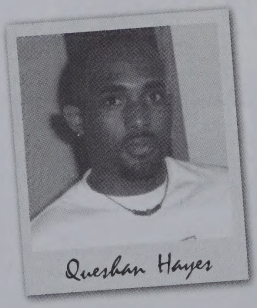
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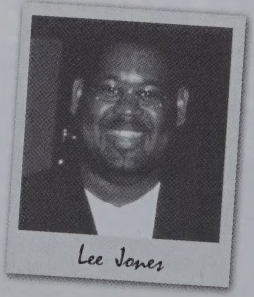
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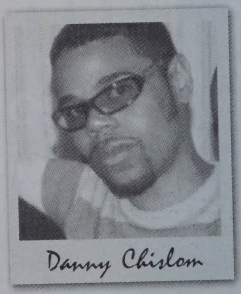
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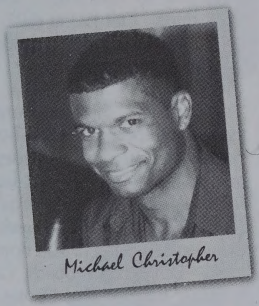
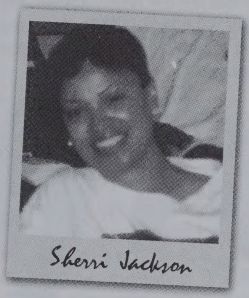
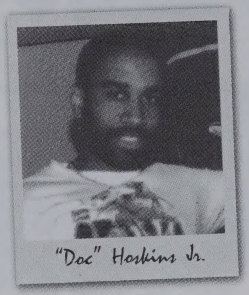
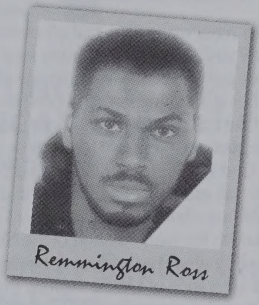
Because of All Of You, We Are...

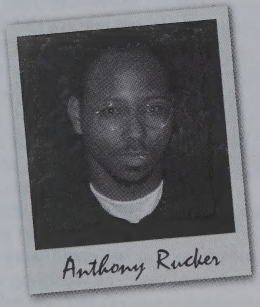


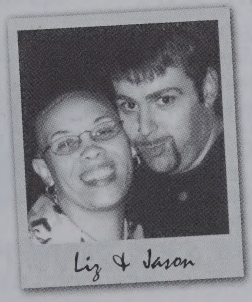


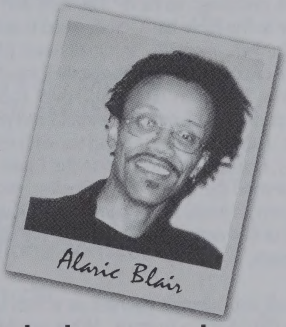


....Number One!









We are always accepting articles and short stories.

If you have an article or short story that you would like to have published in Clikque Magazine, send it via the various options below. Clikque Magazine does not publish articles that have already appeared in another publications.

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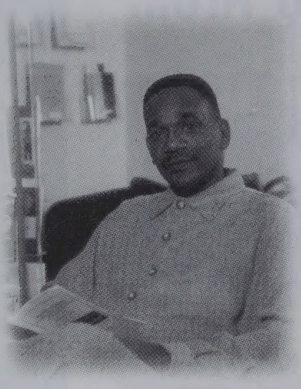
hiv/aids updates

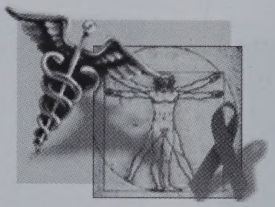
By Don Sneed - Staff



Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: October 26, 1999 reporting from the Southwestern Front: Dallas, Texas. Another pot of fresh coffee as I move into the 15th hour of this work day. Let me get down to the brass tacks and clear the air and, directly but not discretely, answer any questions that anyone may have about my article in last month's edition of, this, our Clikque Magazine.

Eu-men is not a dream, fantasy or delusion. It is the reality of our future. All of this gay shit is history. Get ready to throw it into the trash can of your memory. There is a new Sun rising up angry in the sky. There is a new voice crying I am not afraid to die. I'll let the old world make believe, they are blind, death and dumb but nothing can change the shape of things to come. What's coming is the mass realization that all of this religious mumbo jumbo about Eu-men (formerly so-called Black gay men {and that is the last time that I am going to use the words gay and homosexual in any of my articles - so take a few moments to savor it}) being abominations and condemned to die and burn in hell is a bunch of bullshit! Like I told the brothers in our Safer-Sex workshop tonight these preachers that have been spurning that foolishness are clueless when it comes to the reality of what, God the Supreme Being and all of His/Her encompassing Love, is all about. God has made us, Eu-men, for a unique and specific purpose. We are beautiful. We are chosen and favored by God. We are the elite of his children. We are the key to the manifestation of the New World that is upon us. If you want to believe and internalize the hatred, based upon, centuries old, lies and ignorance of Divine Reality, that these windbag preachers are peddling, so be it. The long and short of it is that nowhere in the Bible has God decreed that Eu-men who love other Eu-men, mentally, spiritually and physically are abominations or condemned to burn in hell for eternity. Jesus the Christ was a Eu-men (Eunuch), never had sex with a woman and preferred the mental, spiritual and physical company of men. (I didn't say that he had sex with men - that part is irrelevant.) During that incarnation the Christ vehicle had progressed beyond the sexual. Nevertheless, the Christ vehicle, also known as Jesus, never condemned, hated or decreed that we are abominations. All of this crap came along after the fact. Love for one another, in all of its embodiments, is the key.



What you call and identify yourself as is crucial to your development and performance in life. I am a Eu-man. What would you rather be a punk, fag, sissy, queer, those other two words that I will not use again or a Eu-man? Try it own for size. See how it fits.

Jackson State University's National Alumni AIDS Prevention Project, now under the direction of Dr. Mark Colomb, has received funding to provide Community Capacity Building for Eu-men throughout the Southern United States. As a protector and defender of my brothers in this war against HIV/AIDS I want you to know that we can trust JSU to do the right thing. Renaissance III is partnering with JSU, as a subcontractor, to assist in the provision of this Community Capacity Building. What is CCB? It is a service that we will provide to assist our brothers in various areas throughout the South to increase their ability to fight the spread of HIV and help those already infected in a coherent, organized and collective manner. Many were called but only a few were chosen by the Centers for Disease Control and I submit to you that JSU is the best of the chosen. I don't kiss ass and suck up. I am stating the facts. Do members of your local community need help in organizing to fight HIV? Do the smart thing. Call JSU at (601) 974-6053 and we will be there like the Marines.

I want to take this opportunity to thank some special people who have helped create an awareness, a process and an energy that we will soon be seeing the results of as these new CDC funds hit the streets and the people selected to start doing the work: Dr. George Roberts, George Bellinger Jr., Raymond Dumas, Carl Devine, Dr. J. Lawrence Miller, Rudy Carn, Alvin Quamina, Jim Harvey, Steve Walker, Sederick Gardner, Dr. Ron Simmons, Dr. Mark Colomb, Mr. Rennie (New York) and a host of others. I have had my differences with many of the aforementioned but the goal, helping Eu-men defeat HIV is greater than any differences or disagreements that we may have or had. Let us proceed with our eyes on the prize.

I want to give a special shout out to Kevin, the host of our agency's first "Lets Talk About Sex, Baby - Safer Sex Workshop (beyond the birds and the bees to the nuts and the bolts of safer-sex). Kevin you are what a young Eu-man is all about. You opened up your home to your brothers so that we could work on saving our lives. The workshop was a resounding success and over half of the people in attendance took advantage of the on-site HIV Orasure test because they are tired of the "if I've got it then I don't want to know" bullshit. Again, thank you my brother and together we will only get better.

It's a new day. Nothing is harder to stop than an idea whose time has come to pass. Eu-men; it is now our time to pass. Love and Peace be with you all until next month.

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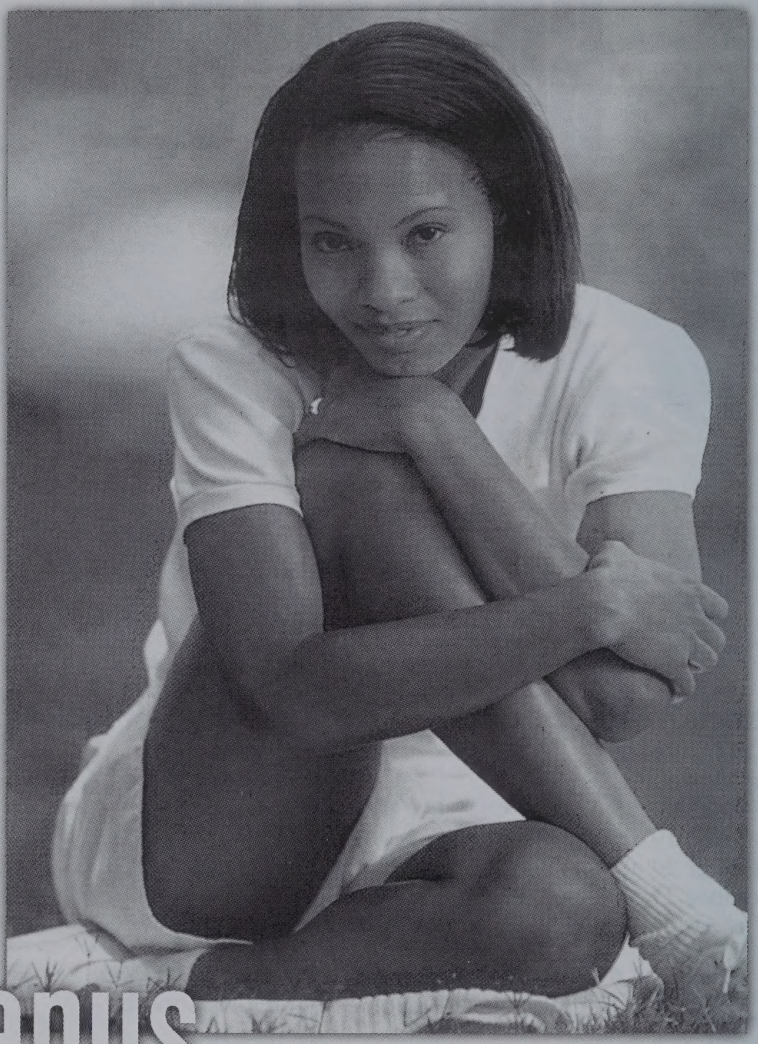
By: Sherri Jackson



Venus
My Enchantress

Venus was my long time confidante, and lover in another life. She was my secret, our secret. I'll never forget the first time I saw her standing next to a beautiful statue at the museum, checking out history. I thought she was as sultry and mythical as the female statue she stood next to. I thought then that it was her deep knowledge of the art which impressed me so deeply, but now I know better. She was beautiful, and had full, sensuous lips. She was lovely, in a very odd and rogynous sort of way.

Her straight, short, black haircut, and radiating brown eyes were a tease. She wore tailored suits with a tie, and nail polish to boot! Clear to a very light beige it appeared. This was to blend in with her honey, almond skin tone. And she was quite tall. She towered above me when I stopped her leaving the museum.

By the end of our conversation at the museum, I knew it was the lady behind the savvy, professional image I was attracted to. I am sure she knew this, because I made the first move.

Venus and I spent lots of time together, it was years of time I recalled. Thank God for the encounter nine years ago. She became my confidante, inspiration, and my love hopefully in another time and place. We took trips together, slept in each others arms, sometimes in the spoon position we did this. We read stories to each other, and on occasion gave each other a friendly peck on the lips. I would dream at times of kissing her very sensuous and slowly. The thought of this made my nipples stand erect. My whole body anticipated her touch. I wondered did Venus feel this way? I was probably the only one really tripping in this friendship or unspoken love.

I remember these settings of very indiscreet, intimate, and intoxicating moments together. She would on occasion ask me to look deep into her eyes when we spoke to each other. This made me very nervous. It also made me very hot, and those womanly zones between my legs would throb and quiver. I hoped like hell she was just as wet and hot. We stood face to face holding each other tight telling each other "I love you". This happened on several occasions. This was always spoken very sincere, sensuous, and with a subconscious undertone.

It was a cold February morning. I phoned her at work to ask her could she make time for me in the evening? We would have dinner, and I would finally tell her how I have truly felt for her all these years. I expressed to her I needed to have a very serious chat. I hoped this would not change the dynamics and bond we have shared all these years. I told her we were different and I wished for nothing to come between us. I said, "Venus I have tried to speak to you about this so called friendship of ours many times". I thought as we both paused, did she know I was just a little jealous watching her walk into the party Friday night with another woman. This party had 2,000 women so why was I getting all bent out of shape. Just two nights prior she phoned past midnight to talk. She asked me, "Simone why did you leave me when you were with her?" I said, "baby I never left you, you are truly my girl". She responded "Simone you did leave me it may not appear that way to you". I asked her was she alone. She was honest and told me no she wasn't. She told me, "Simone you could have all the time you wish, but you never ask me". I could not say anything except "I love you Venus and have a good night". The silence was broken over the phone. She responded, "say no more I think I know where you are going with this talk. I need eye to eye contact when you say it. My gosh did she feel the same I wondered. We agreed to meet for dinner and have Mexican food that night. We said our goodbyes and hung up the phone.

We greeted each other at the restaurant with a hug and friendly kiss on the lips that evening. The place was not very crowded, and the setting was perfect. I thought if I am about to make a complete ass out of myself least the place is nice. The restaurant had beautiful portraits of Latin history. It was very intimate and quite. We ordered cocktails and made small talk of the day. She told me about work and new ventures she was thinking of doing. I looked across the table at her. She looked so lovely, and her lips showed a certain sensuality. Her scent was erotic, and mesmerizing as I recalled on many nights together. The waiter returned to the table, asking "Will you ladies be ordering now?"
We ordered our food and continued to talk. I kept look-

Continues on Page 72

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THINKING ABOUT SELLING YOUR LIFE INSURANCE?

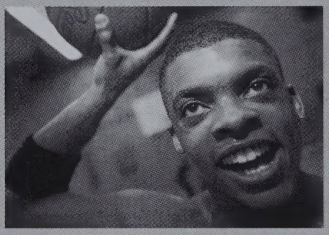
AN OVERVIEW

Too many people with HIV, cancer, sickle cell or other life-challenging conditions who could use their life insurance money now don't consider the option of selling their coverage for reasons that need to be reconsidered. This article sheds some much needed light on the subject.

Simply put, a sale of an existing life insurance policy, also known as a Viatical Settlement, is a sale of the policy in exchange for an amount of cash less than the death benefit.

Many people aren't aware that life insurance provided by your employer can be salable and make the mistake of dropping the coverage when work ends. Sometimes the coverage can even be sold while you are still working. If you leave work, whether you go on disability or take another job or just to take some time off, you can usually take the insurance with you and sell it after you leave.

You've got a life to live, enjoy it



Some people have raised the issue that a sale is a moral issue, or somehow cheating the insurance company. There is no question of morality to be considered, just the balance of your need for the money now against the need of whoever you named as beneficiary of your policy. A sale doesn't cheat the insurance company. In fact, insurance companies have added a provision to many policies which lets you get the money from the insurance company. If you can qualify for those programs, they are usually better for you than a sale.

Once you sell a policy, you can do anything you want with the money. You may want to use the money to keep from dying, including money to quit your job so you can concentrate on your health, or to get drugs and health care you can't afford, or even for housing. You can also use the money for any life-long dreams or any other use. It's up to you.

There's also the misconception that an investor can come after you if you live longer than expected. You can eliminate even the hint of a problem if you only sell to a large company that uses it's own money or, if it lets individual investors purchase a policy, doesn't let the investors know your name.

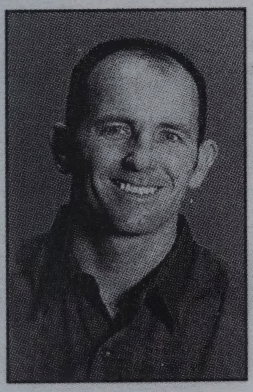
You should only consider a sale when you consider all the factors involved.

The bottom line is that selling a life insurance policy can be a major benefit to you now, when it counts, and is one of the alternatives to consider if you need cash.

By: David S. Landay

David S. Landay is President of NVR, a viatical settlement consultant and brokerage firm. He is author of a free guide about accessing money from a life insurance policy, Every Question You Need to Ask Before Selling Your Life Insurance Policy.

Selling your life insurance? Calling me makes dollars — and sense.



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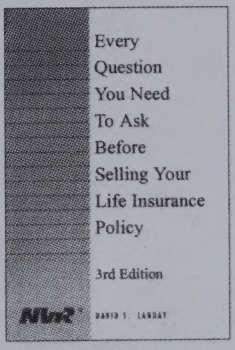

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For more information, call Deborah Ryan, Special Events Manager at (404) 870-7732.

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By: Darryl!

Destiny's Design

Harambee!

Sistas and Brothas, as the season of sun and fun is quickly ebbing away we take the opportunity to reflect on the happenings of this past year. Think back to the last months and days of 1998 when you began considering things you wanted to be different in your life in 1999. Think now to the resolutions that you may have made, verbally and/or spiritually. And now evaluate how much you have actually accomplished in the last 10 months of 1999. Have you maintained your resolutions? Have you made the necessary changes in your life to propel yourself into the new millennium with power and prosperity- in mind, body, essence, and spirit? If after you take a few moments of introspection you find that there are areas you still have to address or that you have forgotten your resolve many months ago, it is not too late. Whatever your goals may have been you still have time to make steps towards them. If, for instance your goal was to eat a healthier diet and you have found that chocolate, pizza, burgers, and fries have been your mainstay- accept that and begin to make changes now. Was your goal to be perfect or to make a change? Do not give up on yourself. Your destiny is in your control. If you start thinking negatively about yourself you will find it increasingly difficult to do anything positive for yourself.

The concept is simple. The year is not over. The changes or additions to your life are still possible. Create what you want. If, like many of us, you wanted to find that mate this year. There may not be enough time left to determine if that someone new is "the one;" but it is not too late to look at who has been in your life this year and what you learned from those experiences to be ready for "the one" when she/he arrives. Refocus the energy on being available and ready than on whether you were successful in having the mate or not. You can choose to look at your life, and your personal evolution, as moving forward or as stagnant, positively or negatively, productive or counter productive. How you view yourself is how you will feel about yourself and ultimately how you will experience yourself in the world.

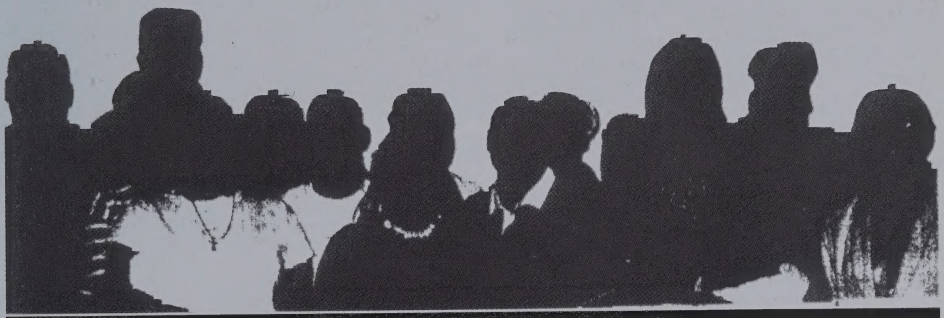
In a conversation with a friend the other night, who happens to be a subscriber to Clikque, he mentioned that he often hears negative things about people. But he strives to find something good in each person such that when he walks away from the conversation he will say "yeah…he/she may be this or that but I do like this or that about him/her." If we adopt that attitude we might just find that the people we dislike the most still have something good to offer or that we might have something good to offer to them. And if we adopt the same attitude towards ourselves we might be able to avoid the precipitants of depression and loneliness often associated with the upcoming holidays.

As we move into the season of giving and good cheer and as we begin also to focus on the needs of others rather than our own, it is still ok to take some time to give to yourself. Stay strong and be of good courage. Hold on to the good that life has. Remember your destiny is designed by you.

Peace and Blessings.

Next time: Defeating the enemies within- depression, anxiety, and loneliness.

Black People Get AIDS TOO



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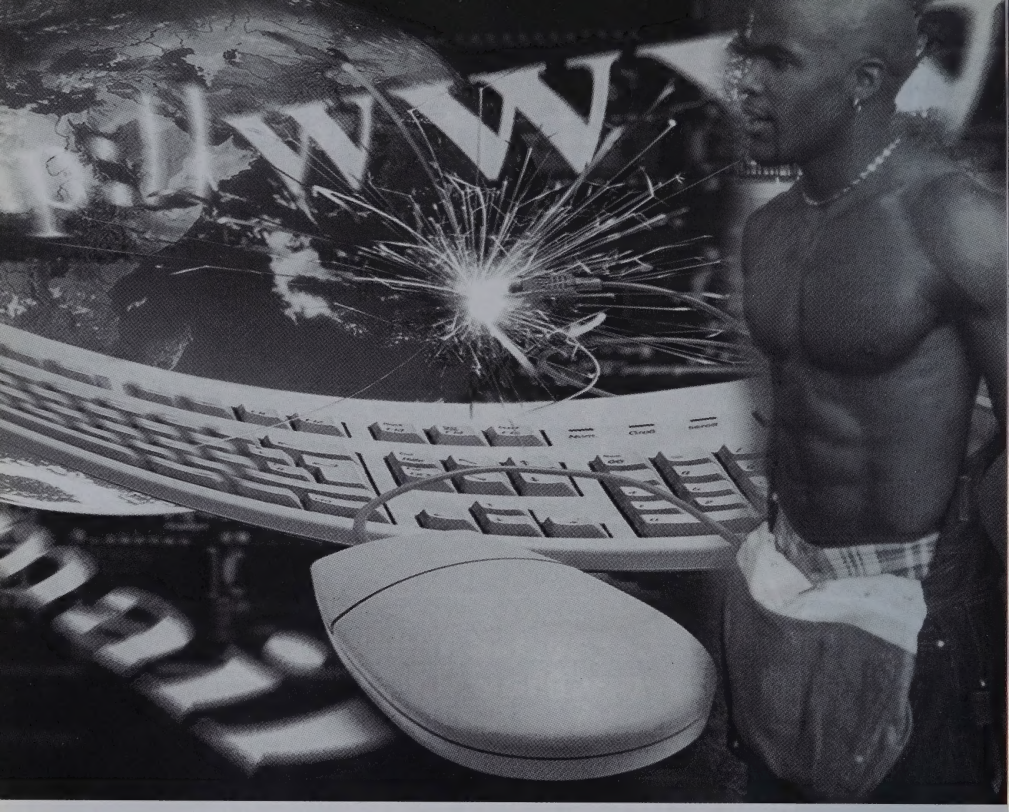


Untangling the net

By Lee Jones

The Internet is one of the most remarkable tools ever invented. Anyone with a modest amount of funds and knowledge of html or Java can launch a website highlighting any subject or interest that appeals to its author. One of the interesting developments over the past five years is the explosion of African-American gay websites. An ever-increasing number of webmasters are catering to an invisible but hungry population. The popularity of these websites is due in no small part to the fact that anyone with a computer, a modem and a phone line can get access to this material. There is no risk of being seen at a club or seen purchasing a black gay magazine or spotted patronizing an X-rated movie theatre. Anyone can access a website from the privacy of his or her own home or work. This anonymity has made black gay websites a very valuable and profitable venture. But the very thing that makes black gay websites so appealing is the very reason that some of the content of these websites should not be taken seriously.

Nearly all the African American gay websites feature the usual erotic pictorials that are accessible for a fee. But one of the best features – and perhaps the single feature that attract more visitors than the erotic photos – is the personal ad section.

Americans at the end of the 20th century find themselves living in increasingly isolated environments. We are working more hours per week than anyone else in the world and as a result we have limited time for leisure activities. Thus, there are more people who are single because they don't have the time or energy to partake in social activities. To many, the Internet is their social activity. We can do a number things via the Internet that we used to only be able to do either at a store or talking to a person on the phone. Tasks such as buying clothes, music, airline tickets, food, magazines and even car shopping can be done via the Net. Now black gay websites have made dating and cruising available via your computer. There are more pages of personals in black same gender loving male-oriented websites than there is of any other material. Personals are popular. A website that does not have a personals section is probably not receiving very many hits at all.

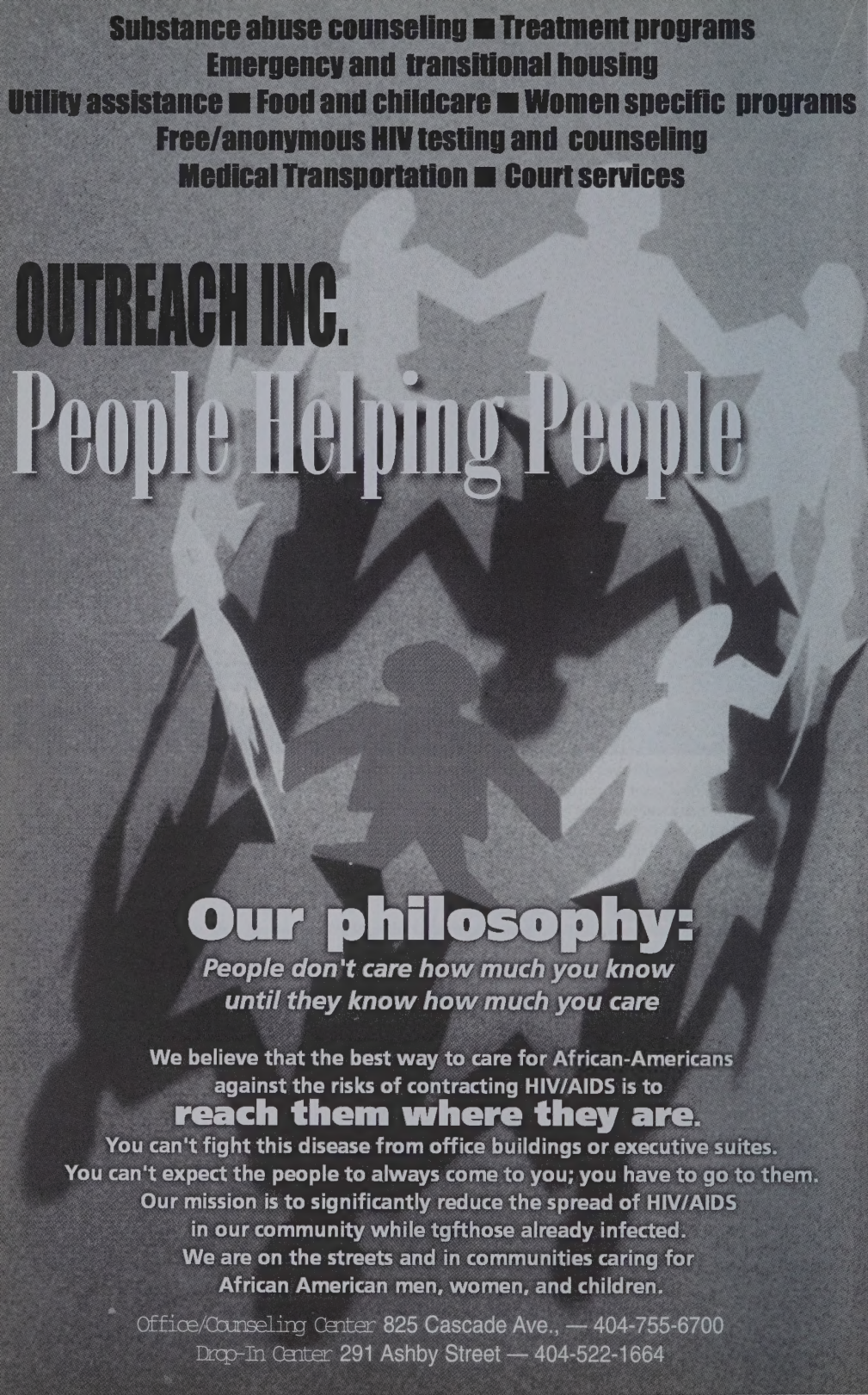
Over the past few days I have been perusing a number of black gay-oriented websites looking at personal ads. Most of the

CONTINUES ON PAGE 68

Are You Doing It?

When used properly, latex condoms are effective against Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and most STDs.

Message Brought To You By:
The City of Houston • HIV-Infoline: 713.794.9020


Substance abuse counseling ■ Treatment programs
Emergency and transitional housing
Utility assistance ■ Food and childcare ■ Women specific programs
Free/anonymous HIV testing and counseling
Medical Transportation ■ Court services
OUTREACH INC.
People Helping People
Our philosophy:
People don't care how much you know
until they know how much you care
We believe that the best way to care for African-Americans
against the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS is to
reach them where they are.
You can't fight this disease from office buildings or executive suites.
You can't expect the people to always come to you; you have to go to them.
Our mission is to significantly reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS
in our community while tgfthose already infected.
We are on the streets and in communities caring for
African American men, women, and children.
Office/Counseling Center 825 Cascade Ave., — 404-755-6700
Drop-In Center 291 Ashby Street — 404-522-1664

Dinner Program

New HIV Drug Therapies

Special Speaker
Theresa McGhee, P.A.

Thursday November 18,1999

5:00 PM

Place: OUTREACH INC.

825 Cascade Ave,
Atlanta GA.
(404)755-6700

Free for all

Seminar P rovided through
an educational grant from
UNIMED Pharmaceuticals

Substance abuse cou
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OUTREACH INC.

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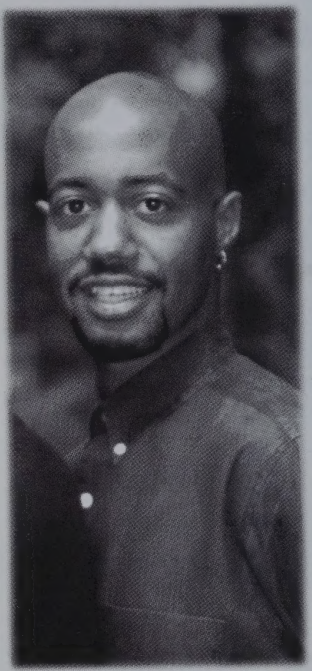

SONG invites you to share our "Lessons From South Africa" at a community report and reception

Wednesday
November 17th
@7PM - Auburn Avenue Research Library Auditorium at 101 Auburn Avenue (near Courtland St).

Come and hear about our experiences during the
International Lesbian & Gay World Conference
in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Your hosts will be SONG Co-Directors Craig Washington and Pam McMichael.

For more info, please call (404)-249 -8788 or email song4cw@aol.com.

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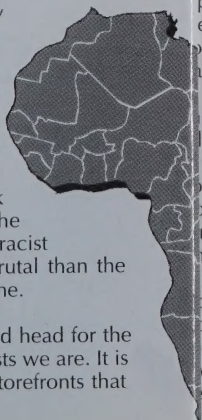

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and he could set me up to stay with someone for a few days, take me to some parties and learn more about Soweto. Was he (a)just being friendly, (b)tempting me to spend more money, (c) tempting me, period, (d) (b)and (c) , or (e)all of the above? I didn't return so I may never know.

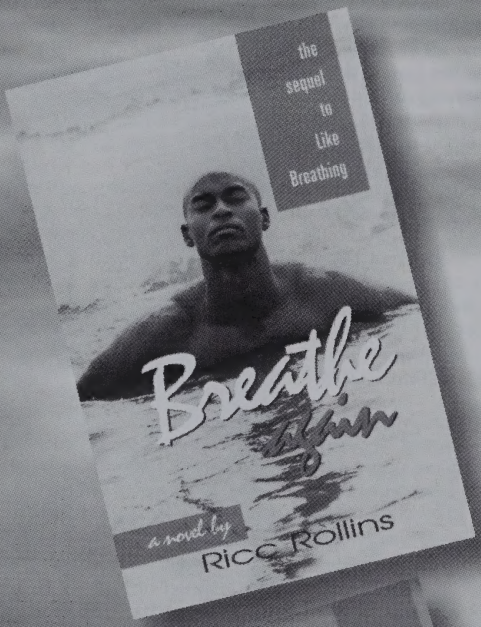
We zipped over to another tent across the street which had some great tees and sweatshirts, books and videos. Just above my head was a T-shirt bearing a startling picture of a young man carrying a lifeless boy in his arms with a young girl walking alongside him. I'd first seen this photo in a Jet magazine some 20 years ago. Like the TV shots of civil rights workers being fire hosed, this was one of the defining images of the anti-apartheid movement. It disturbed me so, yet I kept coming back to stare at it. The vendor, a large women with a severe limp, noticed my fascination with it. "You see that shirt there." I turned and she was looking right at me. "The one who is carrying the boy is my son." She turned to her younger assistant and said, "and this is that girl in the picture." I couldn't think of anything to say that would make sense in this moment so I just nodded to both of them. Just as I thought to ask what had become of her son, she told me that he was a well-known activist and had disappeared a year after the photo was taken. I held her hand and said "Thank you, bless you." She said, "Thank you brother." All I could think of was the Ruby Dee character name, "Mother-Sister", 'cause that's how I felt her.

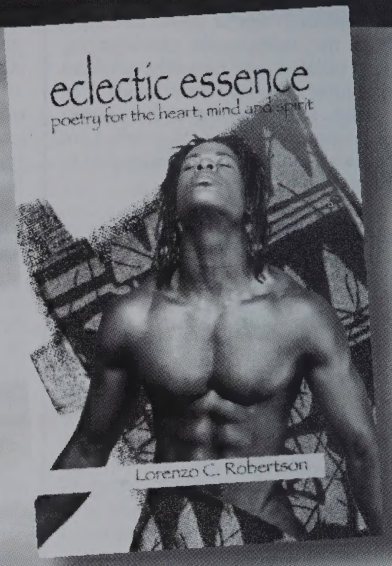
On our way to the Mandela home, we move through streets animated by children at play who smile and wave us by. The homes we pass range from very small ones (like American "shotgun" houses) to midsize 2-storied houses with tall iron or ceramic enclosures. David and Linda tell us that the larger homes are owned by celebrities. By most American standards they are modest. In a country where black people are disproportionately hit with unemployment, povery and illiteracy, these residents are doing quite well. The former Mandela home is like this. Our guide greeted because with an engaging lecture about the house and the restrictions used to discourage blacks from owning homes. Black applicants were excessively scrutinized and the few who were "approved " often waited 20 or 30 years on some mysterious "waiting list". Only because Mandela had certain connections as a young man was the couple able to secure this one. He pointed out the bullet holes that peppered the brick facade built to shield it's now world famous inhabitants from such attacks. He spoke of the many times the police and others would fire at Winnie or try to poison her fierce guard dog. Under constant surveillance, Winnie, like her neighbors, could not entertain guests or they'd be accused of plotting against the state. For many years this was a wartime village, one which in turn bred some of the most effective and sophisticated revolutionary workers in the world. Buffalo soldiers in their own land.

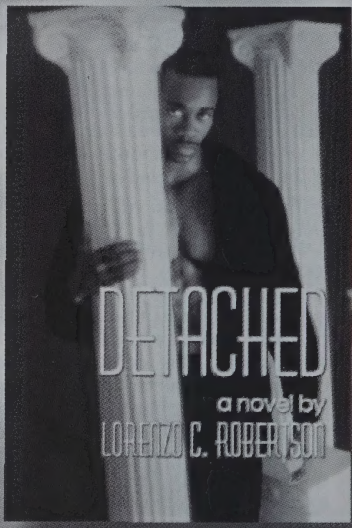
After the Mandela home tour ended, I chatted with the guide some more. When he spoke of Soweto now he smiled. He stated that people here really do look out for one another and gave examples of a high spirit of communion between neighbors. I was glad to hear any accounts of black folks in South Africa pulling together and enjoying their lives in the land that is their birthright.

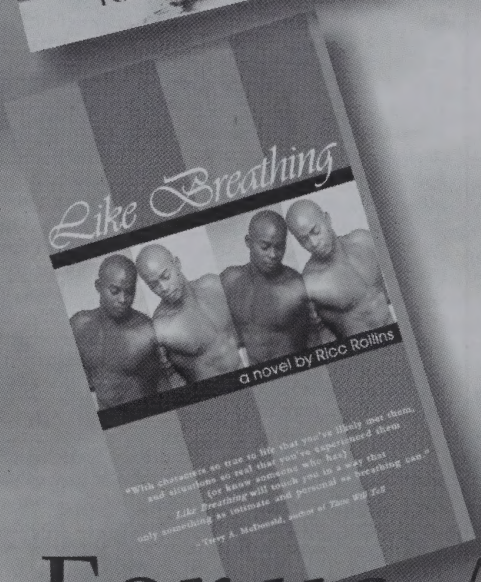
PART 1 OF A 3-PART SERIES

For your read









For us, About u

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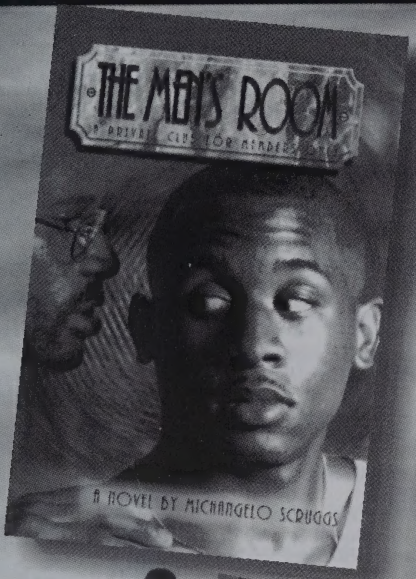

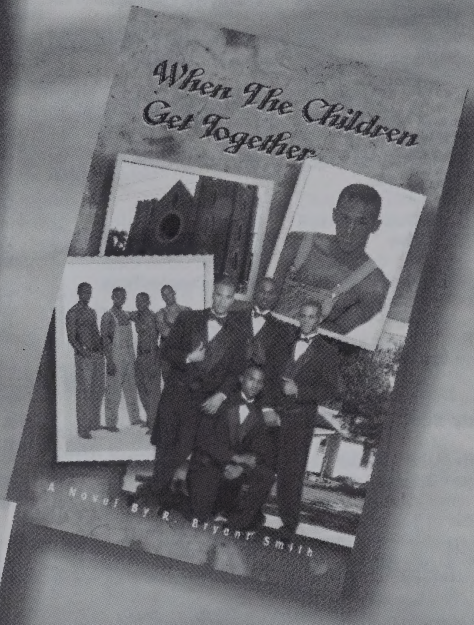

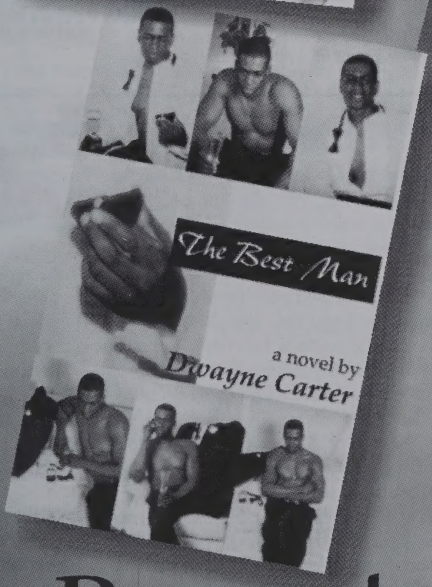

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By Alaric Blair - Staff

Books of Interest to African-Americans

FICTION:

The Hand I Fan With
Tina McElroy Ansa

Another Country
Giovanni's Room
Going to Meet the Man
If Beale Street Could Talk
Just Above My Head
Tell Me How Long...
James Baldwin

Lover's Choice
Becky Birtha

Po Man's Child
Marci Blackman

The End of Innocence:....
Alaric Wendell Blair

Uprising
Randy Boyd

The Bull-Jean Stories
Sharon Bridgforth

Parable of Talents
Octavia Butler

The Best Man
Dwayne Carter

What Looks Like Crazy
Pearl Cleage

No Telephone to Heaven
The Store of a Million Items
Michelle Cliff

Blackbird
Captain Swing
Eight Days a Week
Tangled Up in Blue
Larry Duplechan

Skin Deep\
Black Butterflies
John Gordon

2nd Time Around
B-Bo Blues
Back 2 Back
If Only for One Nite
James Earl Hardy

And This Too Shall Pass
Invisible Life
Just As I Am
Abide With Me
E. Lynn Harris

Langston Hughes' Short Stories
Return of Simple
Not So Simple
Langston Hughes

Considering Venus
D. Giselle Isaac

Walking Through Mirrors
Brian Keith Jackson

The Harris Men
R. Johnson

Let the Dead Bury Their Dead
Putting on the Ritz
A Visitation of Spirits
Randall Kenan

Waiting to Exhale
How Stella Got Her Groove Back
Terri McMillan

Beloved
The Bluest Eye
Jazz
Paradise
Tony Morrison

Getting Off Clean
Timothy Murphy

3 the Hard Way
Back In The Day
Deardia Nesbitt

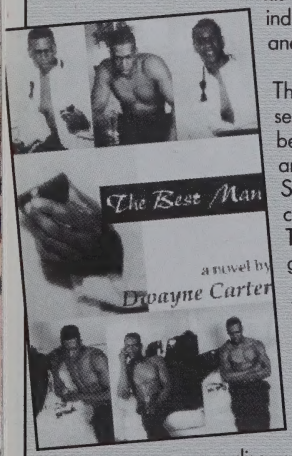
We Came All the Way from Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?
Achy Obejas

Latin Satins
Terri de la Pena

Tha Gathering of Small Bones
Patricia Powell

Atlanta Author to Sign Novel at Shrine of the Black Madonna - Atlanta

Atlanta,GA- The Best Man (Ishai Books, $14-) by Atlanta native, Dwayne Carter has readers buzzing about his debut novel. Released in May, The Best Man debuted on top ten lists of several independent book stores around the country including OutWrite Books in Atlanta and is winning rave reviews from web readers @ Amazon.com.

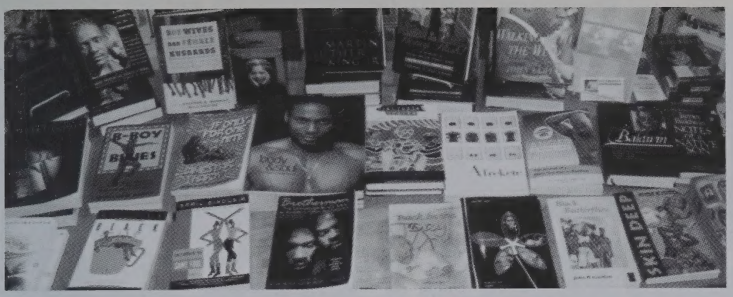


The Best Man chronicles the friendship of two best friends who may have gone their separate ways, but have managed to keep their friendship in tact. Often times the best man's job begins years before the nuptials; he's the one that you grow up with and love like a brother and that's the way it is for Rick Stanley and Tony Brooks. So when Tony asks Rick to be his best man, Rick has to decide if he will be forth coming with Tony about his sexuality. Rick's lover Rahsaan warns that inviting Tony into their home without letting him know up front that they are partners is going to be like mixing oil and water.

With the commercial success of African-American authors, a receptive and eager audience awaits new and exciting novels exploring the lives of African-American through fiction. The Best Man was written with the universal theme of friendship and unconditional love, but from a black man's perspective.

Readers will have the opportunity to meet Dwayne Carter as he reads from and discusses The Best Man at The Shrine of the Black Madonna located at 946 Ralph David Abernathy Street, November 9, 1999, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This Book Can Also Be Found At Outwrite Bookstore in Atlanta - 991 Piedmont



Flipping
Ricardo Ramos

The Necessary Hunger
Nina Revoyr

Detached
Lorenzo Robertson

Like Breathing
Ricc Rollins

Push
Sapphire

Gym Rats
Eric Saunders

Traitor to the Race
Darieck Scott

Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice
Coffee Will Make You Black
I Left My Back Door Open
April Sinclair

The Color Purple
The Temple of My Family
By the Light of My Father's Smile
Alice Walker

Anger is What I Do Best
Roger T. Ward

To Mardi Gras With Love
K. Rhydell Watson

Gingersnaps
Delorys Welch-Tyson

Words in the Wind
Demon L. A. Woods

Autobiography of a Family Photo
Jaqueline Woodson

Big Mama Stories
Soul Kiss
Shay Youngblood

NONFICTION:

The Women
Hilton Als

Baldwin,Collected Essays
Nobody Knows My Name
James Baldwin

Flat-Footed Truths
Patricia Bell Scott

One More River to Cross
Keith Boykin

Forty-three Septembers
Jewell Gomez

Black Looks, Race and Representations
Bell Hooks

Boy-Wives and Female-Husbands, Studies of African Homosexualities
Stephen O'Murray

The Truth That Never Hurts
Barbara Smith

Anything We Love Can be Saved
Alice Walker

ANTHOLOGY

In the Life
Joseph Beam

Brotherman
Herb Boyd

Honey, Hush!
Nikki Giovanni

Eotique Noir, Black Erotica
Miriam Docosta-Willis

Ma-Ka Diasporic Juks
Debbie Douglas

The Power of the Porch
Trudier Harris

Brother to Brother
Essex Hemphill

The Invisible Ghetto
Mathew Krouse

Afrekete
Catherine McKinley

Shade
Bruce Morrow

MYSTERY:

In the Game
The Lavender House of Murder
Long Goodbyes
Nikki Baker

COMING OUT:

Does Your Mama Know?
Lisa C. Moore

SPIRITUALITY:

Respecting the Soul
Keith Boykin

The Good Book
Sermons
Peter J Gomes

Acts of Faith
In the Meantime
Oneday My Soul Just Opened Up
Tapping the Power Within
A Value in the Valley
Yesterday I Cried
Iyanla Vanzant

POETRY

A Brave and Startling Truth
I Shall Not Be Moved
Oh Pray My Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Well
Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water
On the Pulse of Morning
Phenomenal Woman
Poems by Maya Angelou
Maya Angelou

I'm Off to See the Goddamn Wizard
S. Diane Bogus

Change of Territory
Melvin Dixon

House of Blues
My House
Nikki Giovanni

A Woman's Mourning Song
Bell Hooks

Lyric
G. Winston James

The Black Unicorn
One Dead Behind Us
Coal
Andre Lorde

From the Devotions
Cortege
Carl Phillips

Wishing for Wings
Spells of a Voodoo Doll
Assotto Saint

Close to Death
Patricia Smith

Milking the Black Bull
11 Gay Black Poets

Phoenix Rising
Vega

MEMOIRS

All God's Chillun Got Travelin' Shoes
Even the Stars Look Lonesome
The Heart of a Woman
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Singin'and Swingin'
Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey .....
Maya Angelou

The Evidence of Things I've Seen
The Fire Next Time
Notes of a Native Son
James Baldwin

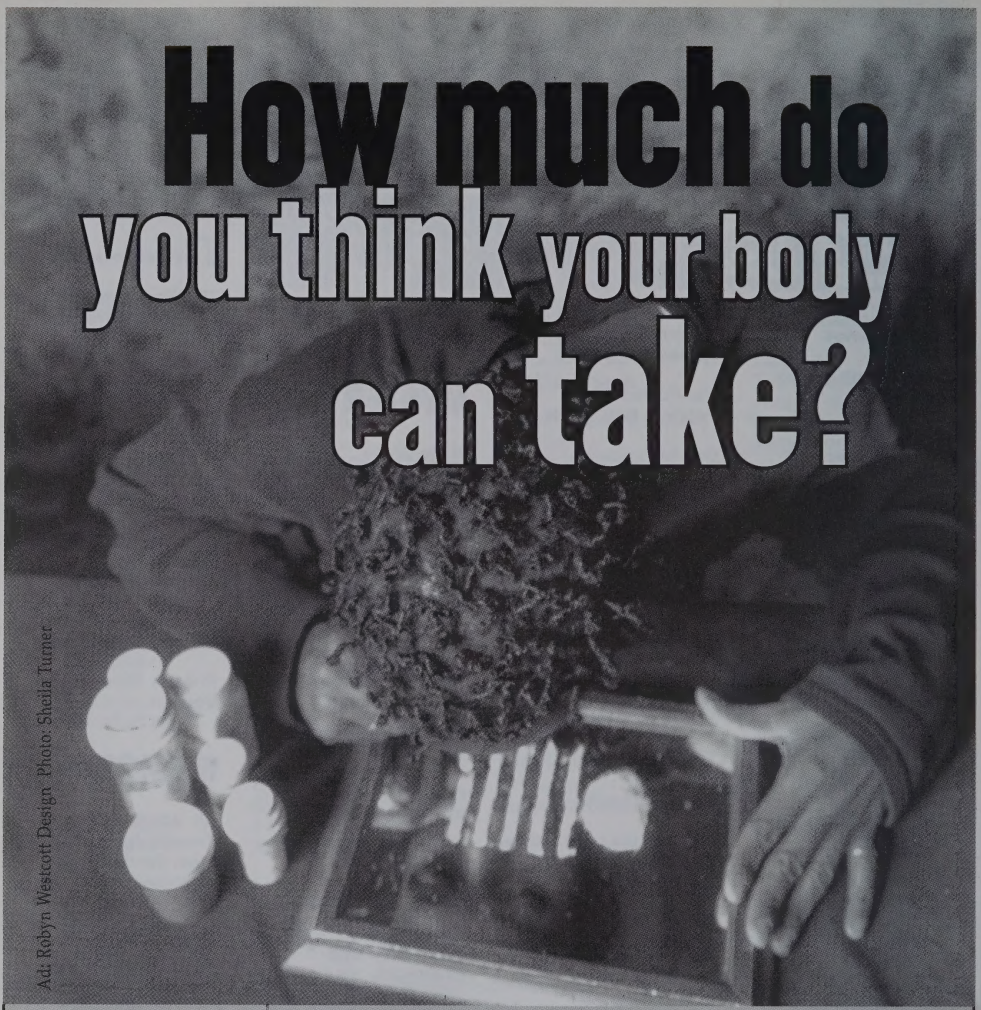
End of Innocence
Alaric Wendell Blair

Black Lesbian in White America
Anita Cornwell

Bone Black
Wounds of Passion
Bell Hooks

My Brother
Jamaica Kincaid

Walking in the Wind
John Lewis



AIDS medications are hard enough on you without the added stress of drugs. Don't let partying make you forget your medications, and always protect yourself and your partner with a condom. For facts, call 1.800.551.2728. To meet friends in a drug free zone, call AID Atlanta at 404.872.0600 and ask about the PARTY project.

PARTY

PARTYING/AIDS/RISK/TREATMENT & YOU
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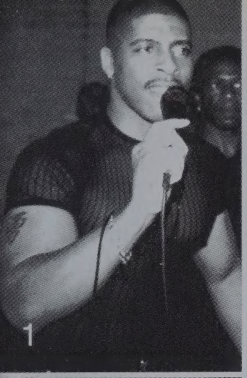
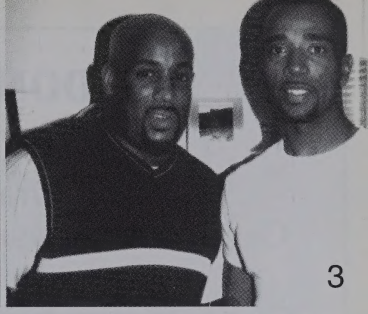
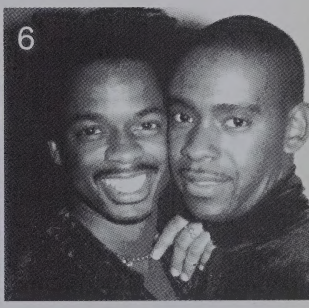




Strongarm's Indeed

DETROIT – These brothers party so hard that they couldn't fit it all into one night. Strongarm Productions, one of Detroit's premiere private social organizations (and there are several -- think Billionaires' Boy's Club and their fabulous anniversary parties) threw a three-day weekend full of events and dropped the bomb diggity on the Motor City.

Friday was the posh pre-party, Saturday was the Aphrodisiac all-nighter at the Charles Johanson Gallery and Sunday was the wrap-up at the Parabox. And the weekend wasn't just about the party. Strongarm took time out Saturday night to recognize some of their strongest supporters.

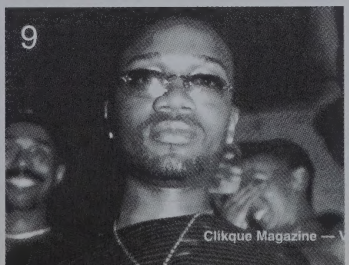


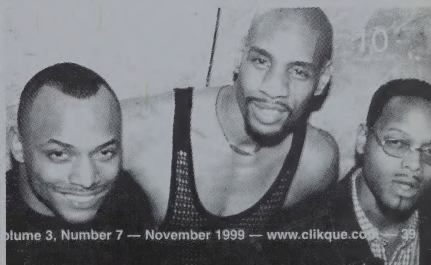
Beautiful crystal awards of recognition were presented to the Ken Collier Memorial Foundation, Detroit nightclubs Off Broadway East and Regine's Off the Park, and to Strongarm's brother groups, Fufu Entertainment from Chicago and Atlanta's own Milestone Productions.

We here at Clikque Magazine predict that this group's gonna be a STRONG presence on the party circuit for years to come!

By: Jason Michael

From lft. to rght. 1)Strongarm's Anthony played MC 2)Thomas with FuFu's Rodney & "Mother" Lisa 3)FuFu's Ron & Thayer at the Pre-party 4)Jeff from the KKMF 5)The Chairman of Chicago's FuFu Entertainment- Thayer 6)Best friends Magic & Darryl at the Pre-party 7) Strongarm gave props to Reggie of Detroit's Regines Off the Park 8)Milestone's Greg gives the Detroit crowd some ATL LUV 9)Cutie Pie with a rough LQQK 10) Strongarm's Oddis (center) with local entertainers Ron and E





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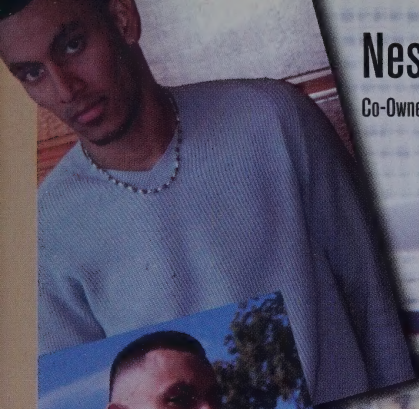
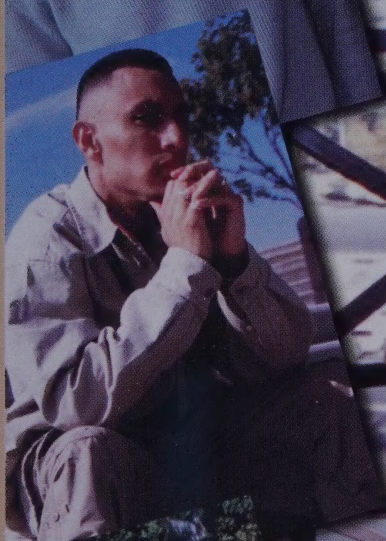
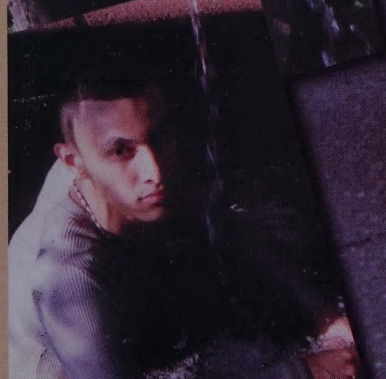






Ok guys, we have finally did it, so now you can stop emailing us to have Nestor on the cover. Yes, this month, Clikque is extremely pleased to offer you this sexy and talented young professional.

The partner of publisher, Dwight Powell, Nestor is very motivated and dedicated to making Clikque Magazine the best SGL publication being offered by a "black" company. At Clikque, among several responsibilities, Nestor runs the office of the magazine, and has the envious job of working with the individuals that are featured on our covers.

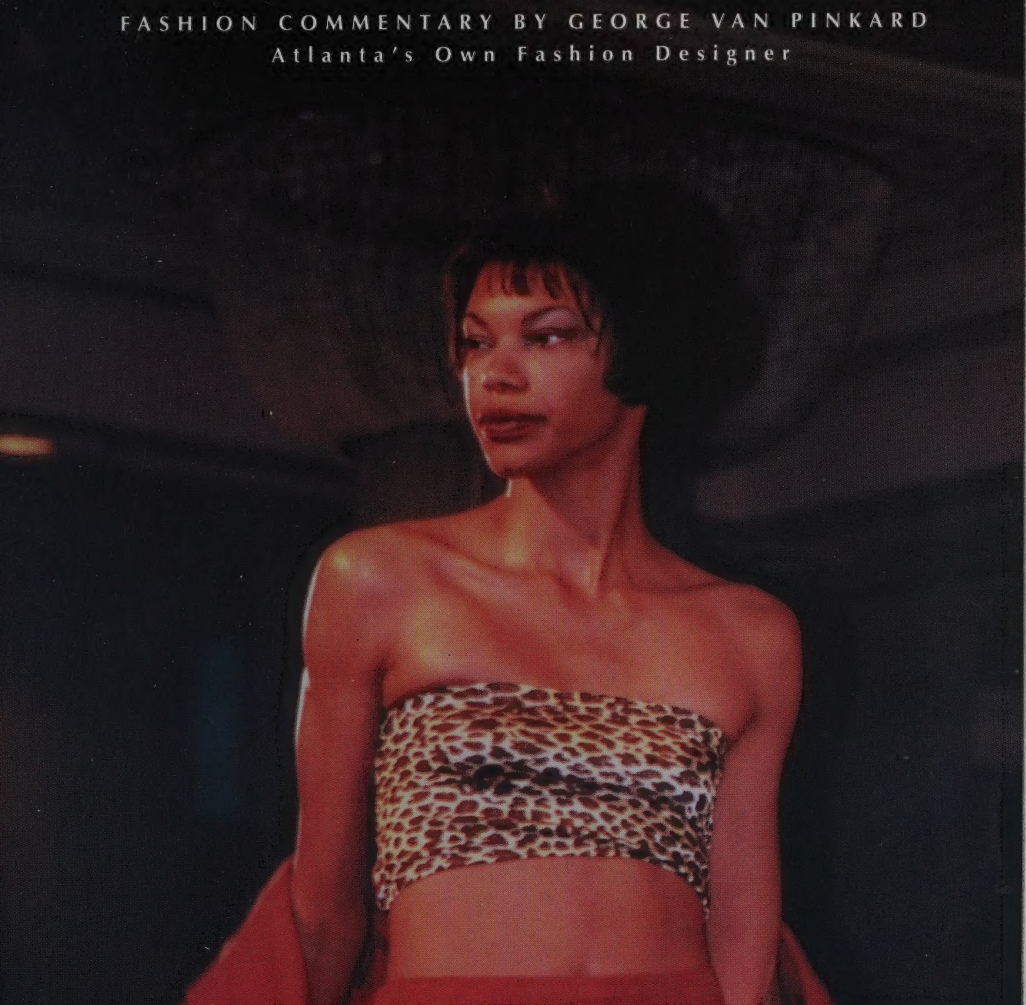
"Publishing this masterpiece each month is a very grueling and taxing process", Nestor explains. "However, seeing the community enjoying Clikque from cover to cover is rather rewarding, and that gives me the encouragement and motivation to continue to render this respectable product", he adds.

When not busy with Clikque, this 23 year old scorpio enjoys traveling, dancing, reading and listening to music.

Curious about what's on the fashion scene for the last season of the century? Well for those individuals who had the opportunity to be a Part of MANSTYLE LIVE '99, the question was without a doubt perfectly answered. Sauntering this years catwalk viewers were able to get a hands down look at what European and American designers had prepared for this years designer label consumer.

Brought to the runways were the most delectable of Asian, Persian, and French cut suites with hemlines to suite any height and taste. Flavorful turtlenecks of immaculate altitudes coincided with shirt necklines and cuffs full of ruffles and geometric angles all peered through the sleeve hemns of coordinated jackets with collars to identify with. Accelerating the look for this fall, designers used the boldness of jeweled crayola colors and egyptian metalics and trims and not to omit the numerous amounts of buttons that were purposeful in securing the three quarter strips and worsted wool blends. Two highlights that constantly kept the attention of onlookers were the designers ability to coordinate asymmetrical and boxed hats of plaids and felt with ascots and neck ties knotted beyond extreme.

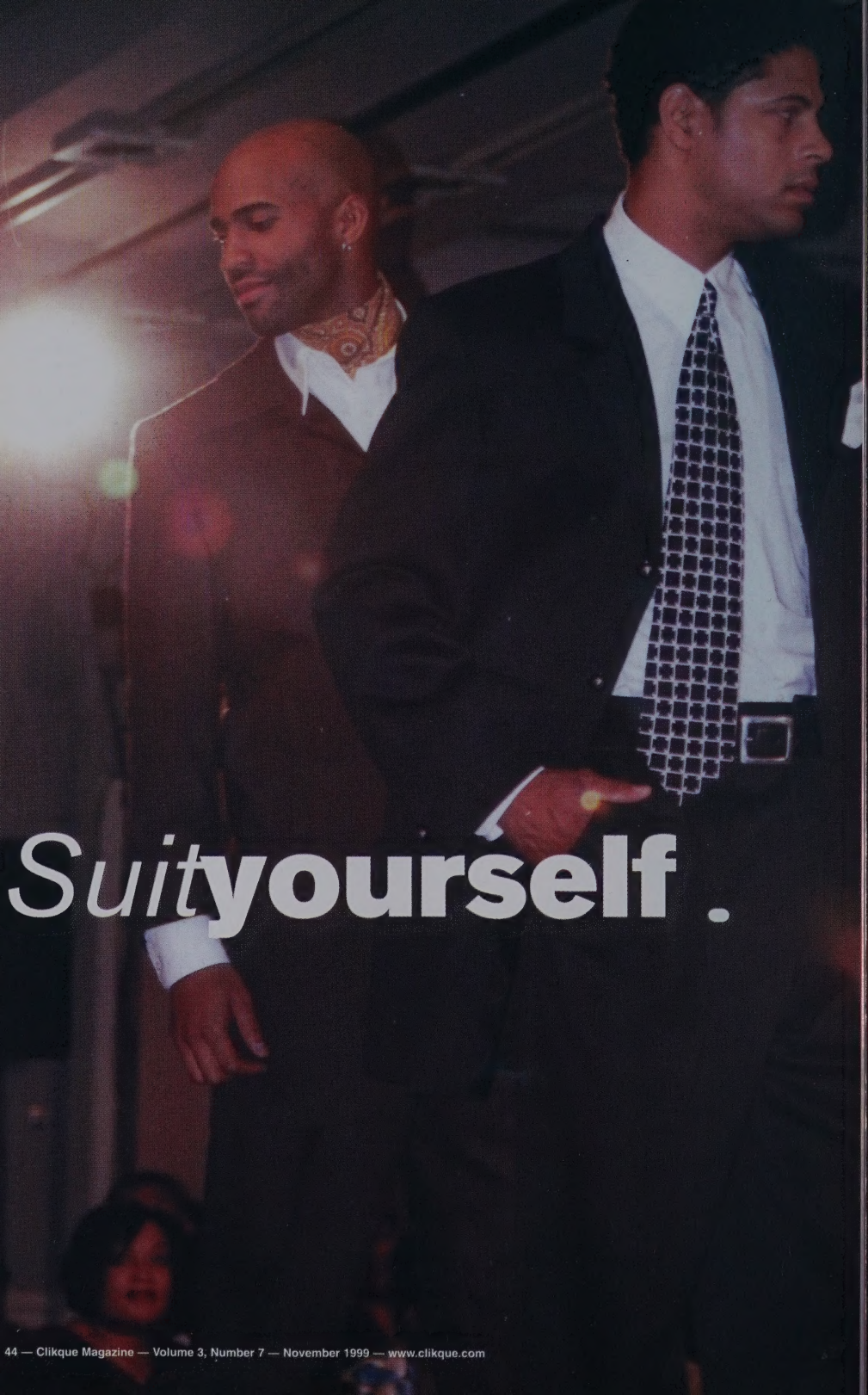
Shirts of pane velvet, peach skin, silken wools and never the less pullovers full of fullness are hot on the scene for this Fall's fashion conscious male.



As for the woman of the 90's, you should always be in constant aware of the hemlines of jackets, dresses, pants, and skirts, particularly this Fall. MANSTYLE designers portrayed the new millennium woman by exercising the sexiest of bust tunics that need not a waist past 27. Jackets that deviated from the traditional were eluded constantly down the catwalk and coordinating bottom types were carefully selected to accentuate.

Fox and mink were very strong with full length, buttock griping sweaters, and dresses that had back outs to die for. Universal costume jewelry exemplified neck and cleavages while the roaring hats of the 50's man took an alternative route and were placed on the heads of female models that wore beckoning hairstyles and deceivable eyewear.

Each fashion designer gave an assertive outlook for this years Fall styles. As we all prepare to move into the turn of the year 2000, a new century, a new millennium, and a new era, fashion is going to and will be a vital force to our sole existence and in establishing and maintaining our very own personal identity. Hats off To producer Warren Huntley and MANSTYLE LIVE '99 !!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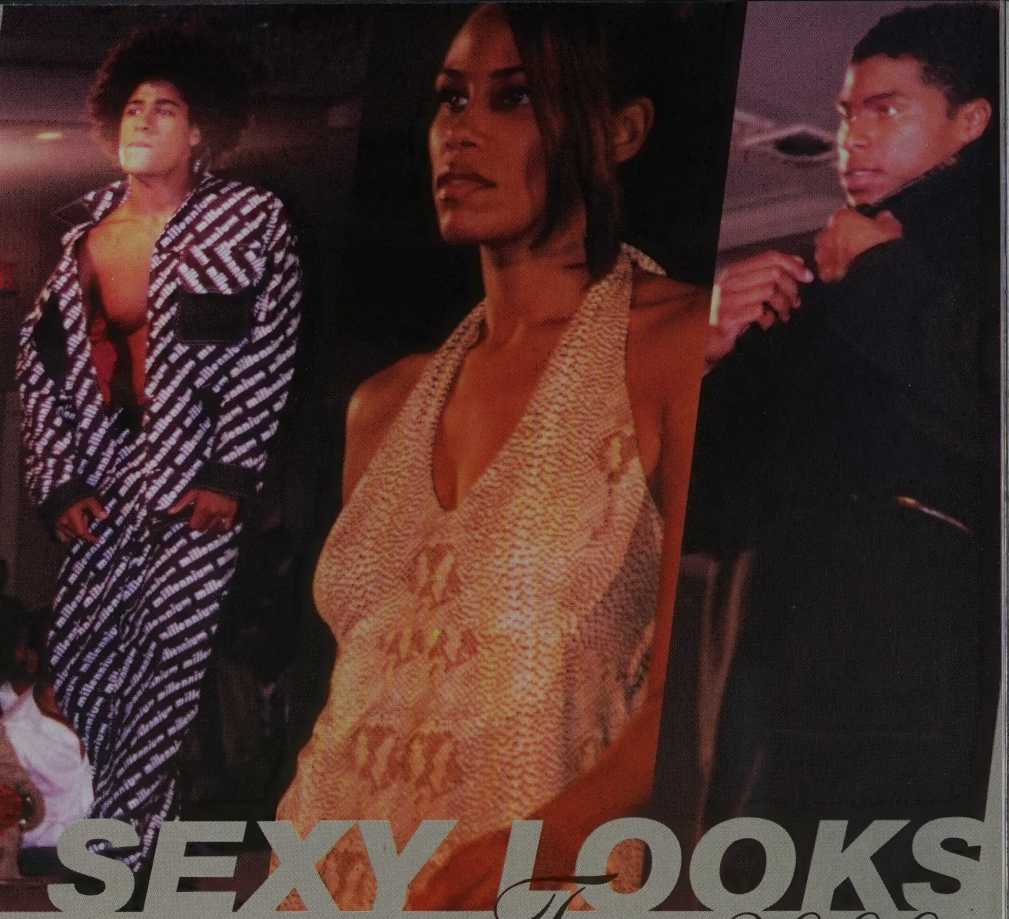
....To This Fall Season Fashions



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Sign Up by 11PM - Contest Begins @ Midnight
In Any Attire - No Entry Fee & Open To All
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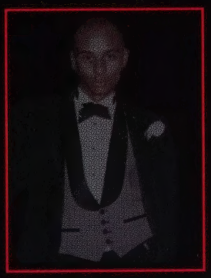

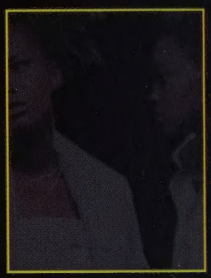

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Anniversary Explosion

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Weekend Celebration

Fusion invites you to celebrate their 2nd anniversary in Atlanta. The Celebration begins on **Thursday,Nov. 25th with** a tantalizing male review and female impersonation show hosted by Chicago's Heavy Diva, Otis Mack.

Then on **Friday, Nov. 26th**, join Reggie and his staff as they conduct a champaign toast at 2am with live go-go dancers and Resident DJ Kurt and Smash.

The weekend celebration culminates on **Sunday, Nov. 28th**, with a Fierce, Black/Latino Flesh Male Review. Come out and enjoy the men of Black Inches Magazine. Also, there will be a Birthday celebration for BGMT General Manager, Reggie Thomas.

Reggie Thomas, along with his Management team: Kurt Robinson, Martin Little, Leondra Robinson, and Darrow Johnson wishes to thank Atlanta for all of their support during the past year.

Fusion's Millennium Party

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Fusion ATLANTA Celebrates 2nd Year

Nearly two years ago Club Fusion opened it's doors promising to bring to Atlanta the hottest nightclub and dance experiences available. And as per all the touted hoopla, Fusion did not disappoint. Fusion opened with a fanfare equivalent to the emotional rush of fireworks on Independence Day! To date Club Fusion continues to offer Atlantans and visitors a supreme sleek, suave and svelte atmosphere.

Two years ago The owners of Club Fusion invited a team of Washington DC's hottest promoters the opportunity to being the DC style to Hotlanta. These men accepted the offer resulting in the birth of the Fusion experience. Over the course of time these promoters proved to be interested in more than a one-night stand, but proved themselves by becoming significant partners to the life and quality of the Atlanta community. One of the original promoters returned to DC to continue his work in other areas while Reggie Thomas, remained along with his own Miracle Network of staffers. They created what we have come to know and love as the BGMT group; promoting events for the African American community at Club Fusion several nights through out the week.

What BGMT has done is nothing short of phenomenal. It has joined the legendary ranks of Atlanta's hottest dance and club promoters – while carving out its own special niche of entertainment not soon to be duplicated anywhere in the world. From the original group has spawned successful Womyn's group (which is currently producing parties and events for Womyn throughout the metro area), launched the careers of some of the most beautiful and talented impersonators, entertainers, and Ebony Flesh known to human kind. Since making a name for itself around the country, through scandal to outrageous fortune BGMT/Fusion has risen to the top of Atlanta's night life as well as becoming major players in bringing Pride and Power to the African American LBGT community.

BGMT/Fusion wishes to thank it's staff and crew for making this STARSHIP sail smoothly into the limelight and prepare to blast off into the new millennium with all the latest and greatest music, entertainment, and dance experiences. BGMT/Fusion would like to specifically thank: Raquel Lorde- the first female impersonator at Fusion, Necole Luv Dupree, Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Revlon Lorde, Natalia Dupree, Niki Bonet, Brandi, Dominique Rashaad, and R'Darius Black. Thanks to the current and former show hosts/Emcee's: Chuck, Dominique, Harmonica Sunbeam, Maxine Blue, and Otis Mack.

A special thanks goes to the owners of Club Fusion, Paul Yates, Arthur Mann, and Robert Shelton for providing this vision and the space for success. And of course the management and staff of BGMT/Fusion, led by the very capable and talented Reggie Thomas with Martin Little (Cubby), supported by Leondra Robinson, Darrow Johnson, Eric Hunt, Eric Cabbler, and Kurt Robinson. Thanks also to the musical geniuses that spin us to heaven and back weekly, Resident DJ Manager Kurt Robinson, DJ Smash, DJ Sedric, and DJ Kevin Ford. Thanks to the bartenders, door tenders, security guards, ATL police and grounds keepers for insuring that the atmosphere would remain a wonder Fusion of B.G.M.T. (Black Gay Men Together). XXXtra special thanks to the sisters of the community who have supported and partied right along side the brothers.

And most importantly thanks to you our members, friends, patrons, and organizational partners who have made the last two years more special and successful than could have ever been imagined. We are because of who you are. We are committed to continue bringing you the very best because you deserve nothing less.

Congratulations BGMT/Fusion from Clikque Magazine

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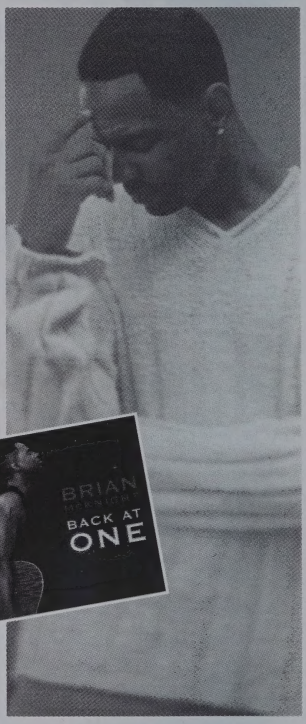
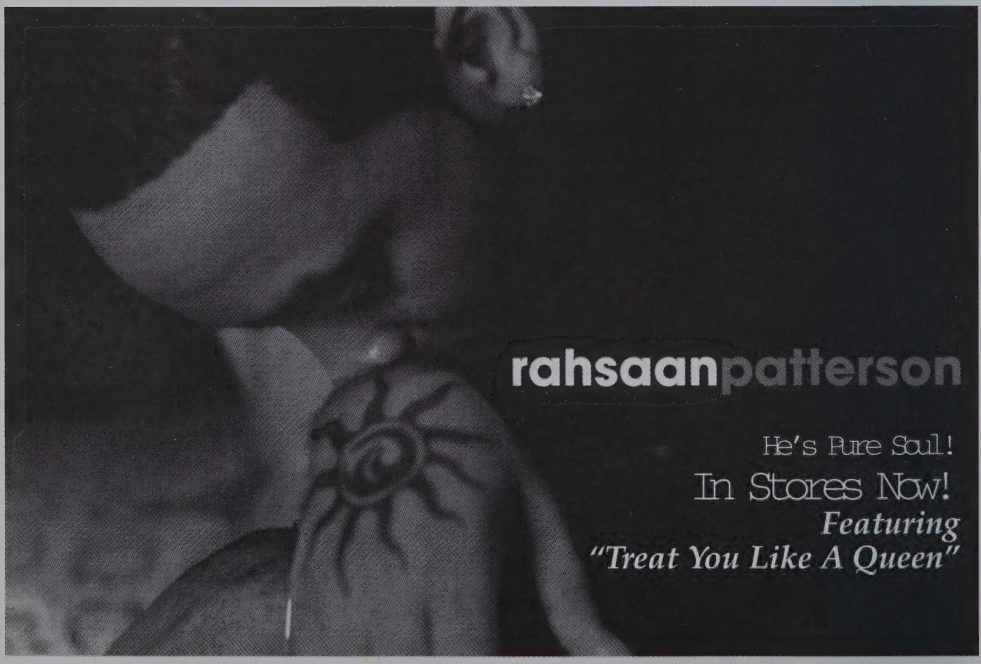
BRIAN McKNIGHT:
Shall We Begin Back At One



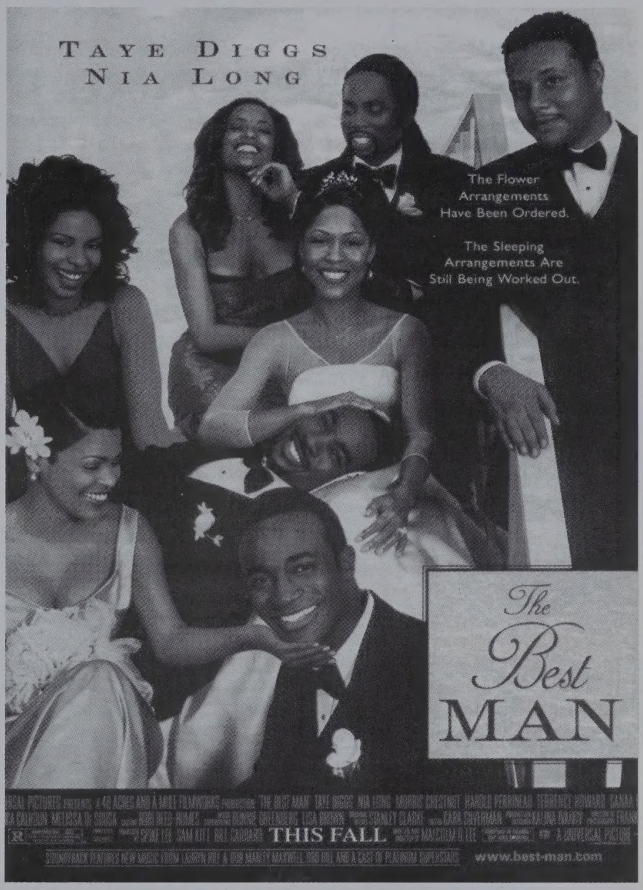
If you are going to be a groupie for someone, be a groupie for Brian McKnight. His 1997 single "Anytime" claimed the elite status of being on repeat for hours on end in my house and a couple other houses I know. In an era where real words are seldom used in lyrics, (you jiggas know what I'm saying) McKnight has the ability to pen songs which delve expertly and seductively into the romantic soul. Add on top his hyphenated abilities as singer-musician-arranger-producer, and you have an artist who is truly worthy of adulation.

The 30-year-old Buffalo, NY, native knew singing was his calling. How could he not know? Music was in his blood. He and his immediate family were members of the church choir where his grandfather was the director. He watched his older brother Claude taste the sweet notes of musical success as a member of the 7 time Grammy winning group Take 6. Brought up on gospel, Brian, the youngest of five sons, explored other genres of music. In his teens, he flexed his composition muscles by writing soft jazz and easy listening instrumentals. At 18, he further honed his talents by forming a jazz-fusion group and began performing at local venues. It wasn't until 1989 when McKnight was booted out of a Christian college in Huntsville Al, that he seriously pursued his musical dreams. Why was he kicked out, well I heard, Mr. Smooth-Honey-Dipped Vocals was giving a private performance to a girl in his room and that was against the college's ultra strict code of conduct. By the way that girl turned out to become his wife.

Call it fate, call it kismet, call it whatever, but McKnight chose to spend his new found freedom in a local studio. By the end of the summer, he had created 65 songs. After casting the net far and wide by mailing many demos, Mercury Records bit the hook. Ed Eckstine (son of Billy Eckstine) was so impressed with McKnight's sound, he signed him to a deal within two weeks. The result? McKnight's 1992 self-titled album. It spawned the break-up-remedy theme song "One Last Cry" and went on to go platinum. He also showed he had the chops to be a producer in his production work on Vanessa William's Comfort Zone. Vanessa and Brian went on to record the single "Love Is" which appeared on the Beverly Hills 90201 soundtrack and peaked at number three on the Billboard Pop Charts.



Everything about The Best Man - from the gorgeous cast to the seductive soul soundtrack - announces itself as sleek and sexy from the get-go. Handsome, dashing Harper (Taye Diggs) is on top of the world: he's got a new novel that's on the reading list for Oprah's Book Club, a chic Chicago brownstone, and an adoring, adorable caterer girlfriend Robin (Sanaa Lathan). But as much as Harper loves Robin's hot baths and gourmet shrimp dinners, he's terrified to utter the m-word. Further proof that this serial monogamist is a total commitment-phobe can be found in the title of his opus Unfinished Business, which is exactly what he'll have to attend to at a New York wedding where he'll reunite with his old college buddies.



Harper's friends are equally career-motivated and foolish in love. Jordan (Nia Long), is a workaholic Black Entertainment Television producer who doesn't have time for a relationship (though she could easily scrounge up one hot night for Harper to finally consummate an old flirtation). Murch (Harold Perrineau) is a sensitive social worker who's completely whipped by his snobbish girlfriend Shelby (Melissa De Sousa). Even the wedding couple has issues: pro football player Lance (Morris Chestnut) has to renounce his days as a "playah" for his trusting bride (Monica Calhoun). Finally, there's Quentin (Terrence Howard), a trash-talking, instigating rogue who changes sides as quickly as he changes jobs. He lives for a good tussle, and with an advance copy of Harper's tell-all book under his arm, he'll get exactly what he wants: something old, something new, something black, and something blue.

Writer- director Malcolm D. Lee doesn't have the political fervor of his cousin Spike Lee, who produced The Best Man; actually, this escapist entertainment plays more like a breezy cross between Four Weddings and a Funeral and Diner. Along with Love Jones, The Best Man also ushers in a new sub-genre of sophisticated, character-driven black dramedies that are a far cry from gangsploitation and are pitched to a younger, sharper demographic than the Terry McMillian soapers (Waiting to Exhale, How Stella Got Her Groove Back). Lee doesn't offer any startling insight into the battle of the sexes. As always, men are marriage-shy dogs who learn to change; with a handful of big laughs and a highly charismatic cast that knows how to put them over.

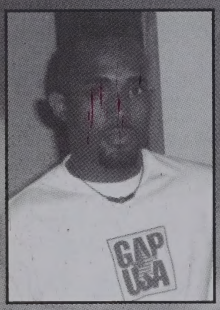
In the title role, Taye Diggs (How Stella Got Her Groove Back, Go) is a suave, likable presence as usual, and he's got great chemistry with the marvelous, underrated Nia Long. (Check out their cute lip synch to Stevie Wonder's lilting classic "As.") But as Harper mends his doubting ways, Diggs never gets underneath the surface of his smooth character and the performance ceases to hold our interest. Luckily, he's the only weak link in the cast. The hunky Chestnut perfectly captures Lance as a hypocritical but tender-headed big lug; Melissa De Sousa relishes every bit of her role as the bitchy one; and, best of all, Terrence Howard prowls through his scenes with slyly funny line readings. His Quentin is an irresistible rake, and this is a sneaky, star-making performance. By the film's end everything is wrapped up as nice and tight as a wedding present, but it's a swell surprise to find that the film's real best man is an unexpected choice.

ENTERTAINMENT

Door "655"

by Queshan Hayes

Part V



Hey old fans and new fans. Thanks for the support. Here is yet another hot issue. Ok, last month you finally met Cicely. She walked in on William and Craig in a friendly embrace. She calls Craig the F-word. Yep a faggot. But she makes a terrible mistake and calls William a faggot. And to put it lightly, she was asked to leave. The story opens here with Cicely's face cracked.

Cicely looked at William and gasped. She couldn't believe that William was turning down the best piece of woman he had ever had, so he told her after one of their nights of passion. Cicely would not be rejected, however. Her expression immediately changed from anger into one of pity.

"I'm sorry baby. I didn't mean it," she wined as she moved closer to him. "I just saw you and...and...him...and...I just got jealous and...."

"Jealous?!! Jealous?!! What the fuck you got to be jealous about?" William interjected. "That punk was upset about some shit and I was being cool and shit."

"I know baby, I know."

"Shit,I ain't no heartless motherfucker,"

"I know baby, I know," pouted Cicely as she wrapped her arms around William and caressed his broad, manly, chest. William was still in his own angry world. Cicely leaned closer to him and felt his heart racing against the side of her face. Just as she was getting comfortable, she was suddenly jerked up and away from him. He pushed her back and firmly held her by her shoulders. He looked her in her eyes.

"Don't you ever call me a fucking faggot again! Do you hear me?"

"Umm...yeah. I hear you William. I hear you! You're hurting my arms..." she mumbled as her eyes became wild with fear and shock.

"Oh..um..I'm sorry," he said as he loosened his grip. "I just wanted to make sure you understood me."

"I..I..I understand," she said, her heart now racing. She didn't understand why he was getting so upset. She just said it because she was just jealous. Was there truly something behind the scene she had just witnessed? She decided to put it out of her mind and go with her original agenda—to get William butt naked, taste every inch of him, then ride him until he exploded. She looked up into his eyes, pressed herself closer to him, and whispered in his ear.

"Hey baby, I'm sorry. So..So..sorry. Can you forgive me?" she pouted like a child. At first William still had a far off look in his eyes. But he soon came back to reality and remembered his purpose. He slowly lifted his arms and loosely

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

wrapped them around Cicely. He felt every curve. Her breast pressed against his manly chest as she let out a sigh of pleasure. William leaned his head down, pressed his sexy lips against hers and immediately put his tongue deep into her mouth. William could really work his tongue. Their tongues rolled around until William's dick began to rise and press against Cicely's upper thigh. She felt this and her own nipples began to harden. William's hands moved down her back and teased her as they stopped at that crucial point where her ass meets her back. Lingering there for just a second, his hands then made their way to her ass. He first caressed each cheek with both hands softly. Then as his tongue went deeper, he grabbed her roughly and pulled her so close to him that she felt every inch of his dick. He slowly squatted and ground his manhood into her thighs. Soon, his hands were everywhere. Up and down her back, running through her hair, back to her ass, where they stayed. She withdrew from his mouth and made her way to his neck. She licked and sucked and her hands also began to explore William's body. Feeling each muscular, solid part of William, her arousal became intense. She was so anxious that she went straight for that muscular ass. She could have died at that one moment. She loved to feel William's manly, muscular, chocolate ass. She felt that he wore no underwear. Free-balling is what he called it. Her hands tensed as she tried to fill each palm with William's ass cheeks. It was solid. She went lower and cupped each cheek as William grinded himself deeper into her body. She was in exctasy as she felt him tense up into a solid mass of sexual man. In a matter of minutes they were both naked. Their bodies pressed together, their heads locked by their tongue play. William lifted Cicely off her feet. She straddled his waist as he carried her to the bedroom. It smelled of vanilla. His two candles that he lit earlier projected sexual shadows on his walls.

"Damn baby," William moaned. "It's been a long time...You taste so good," he said in between kisses. Now, beside the bed, he laid Cicely down lightly. He licked her from head to toe, stopping in all the right places. He was ready. She was ready. He reached over and pulled out a condom as his free hand massaged her nipples. With one leg on the bed and one foot on the floor, he rolled the condom on. Just the touch of his own hand made him precome, just a little. He stroked his huge dick just three times before he went to action. First in slow smooth thrusts he went in and out. Cicely moaned and groaned.

"Oh William..yeah baby..I like that.." she said. William interlocked his fingers with hers and flattened her outstretched arms against the bed. His slow, smooth strokes evolved into hard, animalistic thrusts.

"Yeah, girl...You like that...Yeah, you like that right there," he moaned as he went in and out, in and out, in and out. Faster and harder.

"Shit! Shit! Ohhhh Shit!," he yelled as he fucked the hell out of Cicely. She was moaning louder, on the edge of orgasm. Then, all of a sudden William reached his point.

"Damn Cicely. Damn!" he said as his body shook and jerked. Meanwhile, upstairs, Craig sat there by the wall. He had heard the familiar head board banging and wanted to confirm his thoughts. Yes, William and that bitch were fucking. As he heard what he gathered was William's orgasm, he took his ear from the wall. Staring into space, a single tear rolled down his cheek. His heart grew heavy as he pictured William with...with..her! He saw them. He saw her. His tear was followed by others.

"Why are you doing this to me God? Why?" he cried as he beat his chest. Yet, he realized he was doing it to himself. He cried a few more tears, then wiped them away. He picked himself up and climbed into bed. He looked up at his ceiling as he pulled his covers up and over his chest.

"Forgive me, Lord." And he was off to sleep.

****

William laid there, out of breath. Cicely laid there beside him numb and confused. The sex was good, but he had never fucked her like that before. He was an animal, she thought to herself. What was behind all of that tension? William just stared up at the ceiling.

"William?...William?" Cicely called. He still laid there looking at the ceiling. Cicely raised up and looked him in the eye. "William?!"

"Yeah...what...what..?" he said finally snapping out of his trance.

"I've gotta go. I can't spend the night,"

"Yeah..ok..whatever."

"WHATEVER!?!?, Whatever?! What do you mean 'Whatever'?"

"You said you had to go. So go. I can't stop you."

"Nigga, you are really trippin"' she said as she got up. She put on her shoes, went into the living room, wrapped herself in her trench coat and was gone. She slammed the door.

"Dumb bitch," William mumbled. He turned over and looked at his phone. No matter how much he had sex, he still felt Craig's pain. But he couldn't call him. He wouldn't.

****

Craig's apartment was silent. Suddenly, the silence was broken. His phone rang. Once it rang. Twice it rang. It rang a third time.

"Shit!, who in the fuck," he grumbled as he reached for the phone.

"Oh no, not again," he said to himself as he rolled over and decided not to answer it. It rang one last time and his answering machine picked up. On his phone was the sexiest voice that he had ever heard. It made his heart skip a beat and his dick twitch.

"Hey Craig...It's me Tony..Just calling to say...that..I ...umm was thinking about you and wanted to come over tonite and see you. So when you get this message, give me a buzz." And he was gone. Did Craig's ears deceive him? Was that really Tony?

clikque on erotica

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

He knew it was and so did his body. It ached for what Tony could give. He picked up the phone and Tony's number came to him as he dialed the first number. Tony picked up on the first ring.

"Hello?" Craig's throat got dry.

"..Umm Tony?"

"Yeah, is this you, sexy?"

"Yeah its me...Got your message."

"No doubt. No doubt. So I'm on my way?"

"Are you?"

"Be there in ten."

"Later," and Craig hung up the phone. He sat there frozen.

****

William got up and cleaned himself off. He took a long hot shower. As he stood there, the warm water caressed his body. He thought about everything that had happened. Then, his heart began to feel Craig's pain.

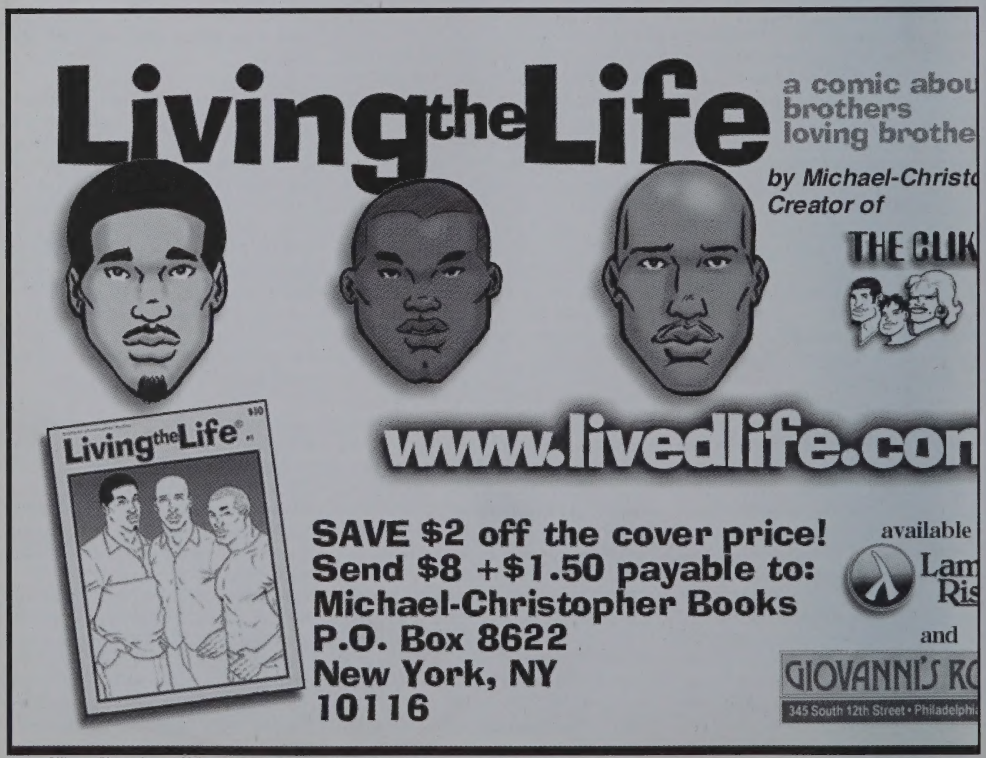
"Damn, man, I didn't mean to hurt you. Fuck that bitch. She don't know shit," he thought to himself. He turned off the water and dried himself off. He cleaned his room and turned on his CD player. The smooth, sexy voice of Maxwell filled his apartment. "Whenever, wherever, whatever" flowed through William's body as he laid across his bed in only a towel. He drifted off to sleep. What seemed like hours, was merely minutes. In a state of mid sleep, he was suddenly awakened by knocking on his door. He got up and quickly went to the door. But on his way down the hall, he realized the knocking was coming from the direction of his room. He stopped in his track and slowly walked back toward his room. The knocking was somewhat muffled, but it was steady. It stopped, but for only a second or two. Then it started again. William walked over to his wall and pressed his ear against the wall.

"Yeah baby...Yeah, that's it...Yeah...Been a long time, huh? Yeah baby, take that shit...Yeah C.C. take that shit, nigga."

"Oh Tony...yeah boy..yeah. "Shit nigga...Shit

"Yeah boy. Shit!"
William jerked his head away from the wall and slumped back.
He stood there, heart racing, eyes wide with amazement and confusion. He went to his bed, sat down, and just stared at the wall.....

To Be Continued next month.
Stay tuned.



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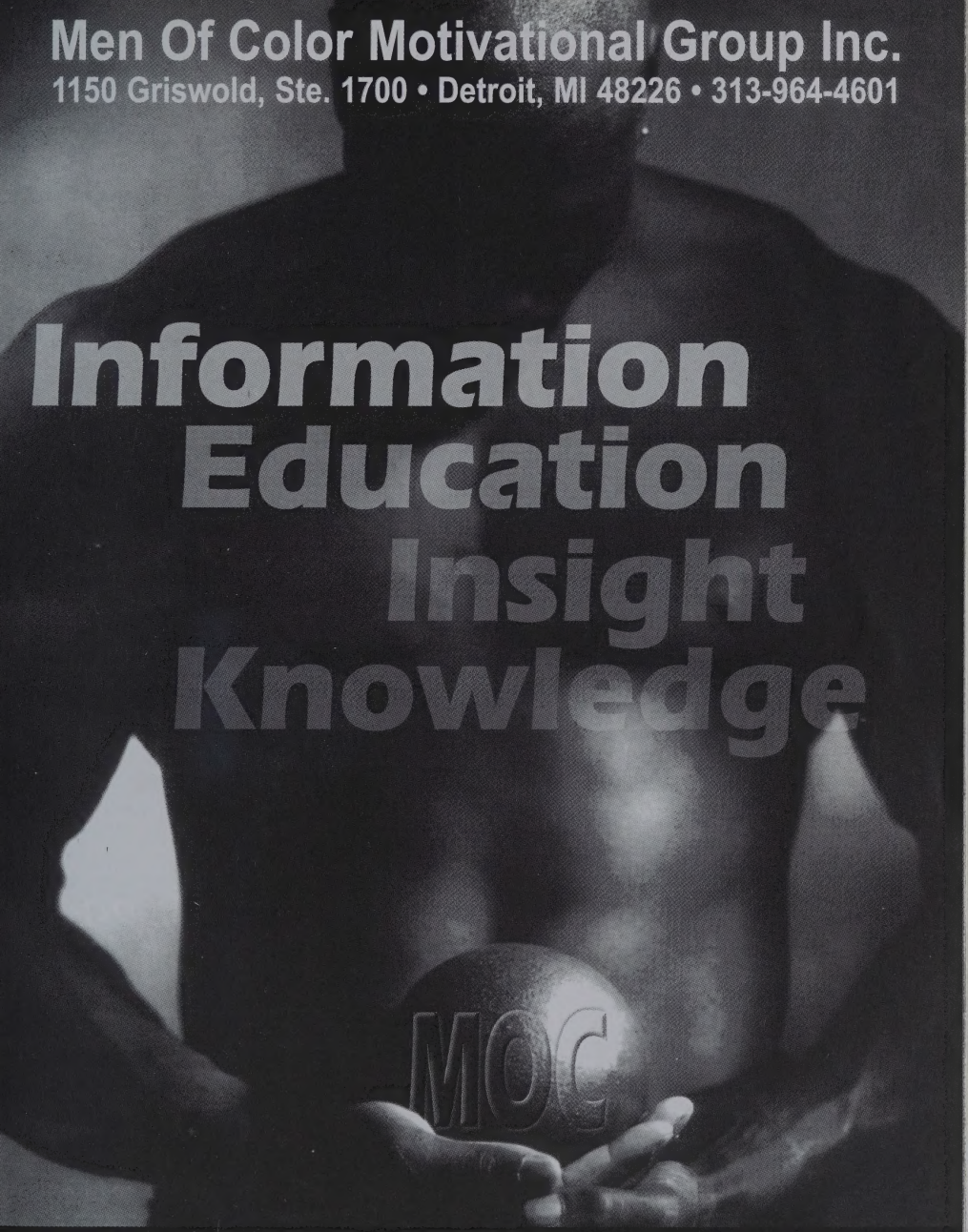

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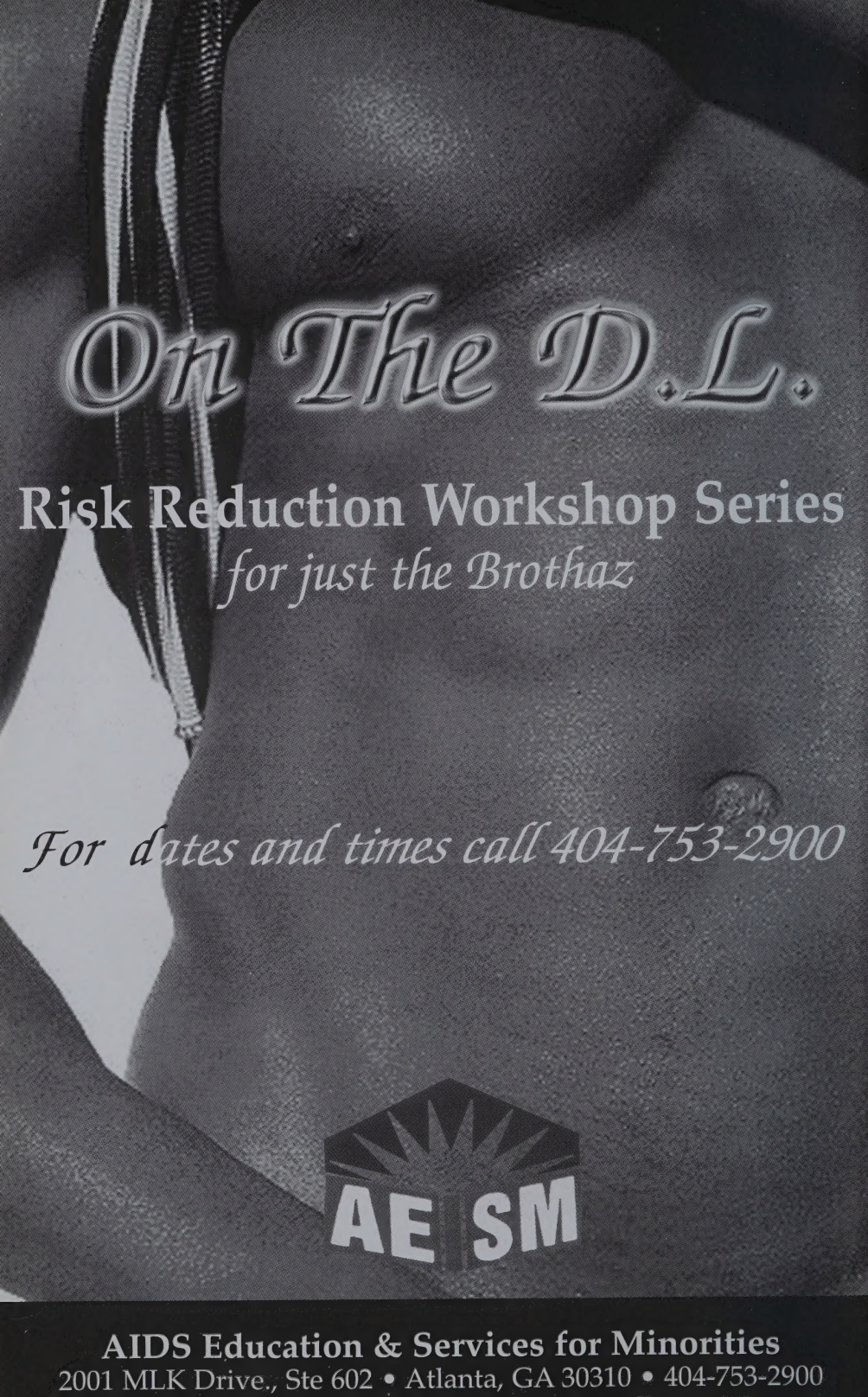
Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.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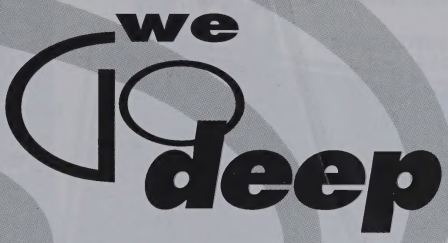

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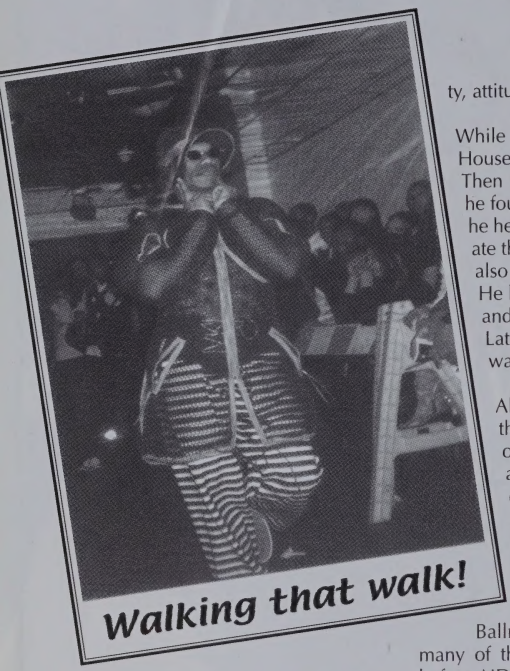
DEREK: PRIDE OF THE HOUSE OF P R A D A

BY: DANNY CHISLOM



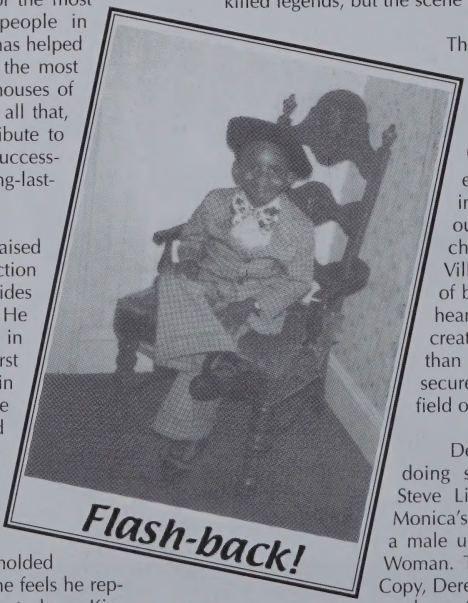
Walking that walk!

Derek Murphy, better known in the ball community as the Legendary Derek Prada is one of the most influential and important people in recent ballroom history. He has helped form and establish some of the most well known and respected houses of the last 10 years. On top of all that, he has found time to contribute to the gay community, have a successful career and maintain a long-lasting relationship.

Derek was born and raised in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn and currently resides in Clinton Hills, Brooklyn. He first started attending balls in 1985 and walked for the first time at the LaBeija Ball in 1986. After another year, he won his first trophy for Head to Toe Overness (a label category) at Max Debujiak's Global Chic Ball. At the time he was walking as a Penda'vis. As a member of that house, he was guided, molded and inspired by the person he feels he represents when he walks today; Kim Penda'vis, who was known for his creativity, attitude and showmanship on the runway.

While living briefly in Washington, D.C., he helped form the House of Khan and brought the Khans to New York City in 1988. Then he helped Eric Bazaar form the House of Milan. In 1989, he founded and fathered the House of Armani until 1993 when he helped create the House of Gaultier. In 1997, he helped create the House of Prada, his current and final house. Derek has also bridged the gap between the ballroom and AIDS activism. He helped the Gay Men's Health Crisis (a not for profit health and information service in New York City) form the House of Latex, who spread AIDS/HIV information while attending, walking and sponsoring an annual free ball each June.

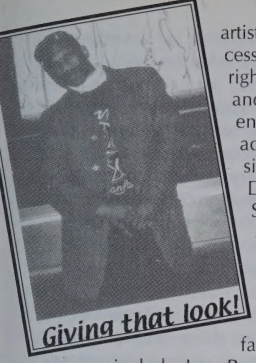
All the while, many of Derek's friends were also members of the houses he was in and encouraged him in each endeavor so he always had their support. Support and friendship are two very important things to have and hold onto in our community as we all have lost so many friends to the AIDS epidemic. Derek feels fortunate to still be here carrying on the legacy of the legends that have passed before him. He's been through different eras of balls from when they were held at the Legendary Elk's Lodge (see "Paris is Burning"), right through to Traxx in New York to the Marc Ballroom in New York to the present when balls are held in many of the major cities across America. Having been out since before AIDS really hit the ball community, he has seen people come out after him and have died already, but has this to say on that situation, "AIDS destroyed ballroom participants, but not the ball scene. It killed legends, but the scene still continued."



Flash-back!

The strength to carry on through such trying times is just one of the many things Derek learned from the ball scene. Another lesson is survival. "Back in the days, it wasn't easy. If you were flamboyant or in drags, you couldn't just walk out of your house, you had to change when you got to the Village or the club." Other aspects of ball life that Derek has taken to heart are how to be aggressive and creative. These two qualities, more than any of the others helped him secure a place in the occupational field of his dreams; styling.

Derek was doing hair and began doing singer Monica's hair through Steve Littles, a friend who was also Monica's stylist. Then in 1995, he styled a male underwear ad for Today's Black Woman. The shoot was filmed by Hard Copy, Derek was interviewed and a career was born. Since then he has done several magazine editorials, has groomed and styled many Latin recording



artists for crossover success (from the CD covers right down to their attire) and has worked with entrepreneur B.Smith, actress Pam Grier, singers Faith Evans and Diane Reeves, rapper Sean "Puffy" Combs and did Usher and his CD cover for the hugely successful album "My Way". Derek, whose favorite designers include Jean-Paul Gaultier, Alexander McQueen, Matsuda, Paco Rabon and all-time favorite, Issey Miyake, is currently styling the cover for Vogue Bambini (Italian Vogue for children). What makes Derek the proudest about his career is that he did it all on his own, he was never anyone's assistant.

At 31 years old, Derek will be devoting more time to his career especially after the upcoming Prada Ball. He says that we won't give up walking altogether because he loves the competition. He also loves to see the creativity that ball participant's display on the runway and how they put their heart into whatever they are doing. Something that he doesn't like, but says is changing is that a lot of ball kids either wouldn't or didn't know how to take their talents out of the ballroom scene.

Derek has certainly taken his talents to the next level without sacrificing his ballroom "roots". Derek's ambitions for the future include not just more styling, but working in the movies, researching and developing the movie's fashion sense and scenery. He is also taking up sign language and is taking steps to be more spiritual. There are many different sides to people and a lot of that is missed when you don't take the time to get to know someone. People generally think of Derek as being stuck on himself because he walks label categories or that he only associates with fashion-oriented people, but he says, "I don't live the ball scene 24 hours a day." Unfortunately there are those that are consumed by the ball world and they tend to take things too personally. "There is no more friendly rivalry and there is too much favoritism."

We at Clikque Magazine wish Derek and the House of Prada good luck and a successful turnout at the Prada Ball on November 6, 1999 being held at the Holiday Inn on 57th street in New York City. Derek wants this ball to be as big as the Mugler Ball of 1991, which he regards as one of the best balls of all time. With Derek's talents and skills and the support of all his friends in the ballroom community and beyond, there is no reason why this won't be one of the best balls ever held.

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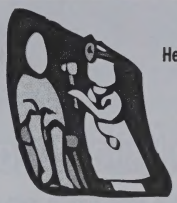

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THE CLIKQUE
by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER©1999
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IF IT ISN'T MY FAVORITE BUS STOP BOOTY! BACK DAT THANG UP!!!
MMPH, MMPH, MMPH!!
CORDELL, HOW MANY TIMES TO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? I'M A LESBIAN!!!
I AIN'T TRYIN' TA HERE DAT! GIRL, YOU AIN'T GAY! JUST BECAUSE SOME MAN DIDJA WRONG DON'T MAKE YOU NO LESBO!
YOU JUST NEED YOU A MAN WIT' DA RIGHT TOUCH!
I AIN'T GAY? WELL, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MY MASCULINE SIDE?

QsJoint is a premium adult subscription web site that features: Original Photography of Black Male Models; Recommendations for Gay & Gay Friendly Chicago Nightspots; Coverage of Chicago Current Events of Interest to the community

No Annoying Banner Advertisements
Free Personal Ads

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 28

ads on the sites are accompanied with generally low quality photos. The webmaster requires that each ad give a name, geogr4aphic location and an e-mail address where they can be contacted. The rest of the information in these ads is strictly up to the individual. Most commonly, however, the person will list their height, weight, and their physical characteristics. Many of the brothers who place these ads lure readers into their space with eloquent statements about themselves and what they are looking for in a mate. For instance, they describe their interests and hobbies and maybe their vision of a quiet evening of entertainment, among other things. Most seek a caring, educated, fun-loving, independent, open-minded individual between a certain age range determined by the ad's author. But many people who place ads often attempt to control who responds to their cyber-commercial by making it clear that they are only seeking replies from certain individuals. They usually end their ad with something akin to NO FATS/FEMMES/QUEENS. Or by stating they only seek responses from people that are in shape or have a tight body and act masculine and are "unclockable. By this time I am confused. I have to ask myself, "Are these folks looking for a mate or a sex partner?" Why would the physical statue or the demeanor of a person matter if they satisfy your interpersonal requirements? Finding a compatible mate is hard enough without creating superfluous standards to further reduce your chances. Who knows if the person in the ad themselves conform to their own standards? For that matter, they may have a 'stomach', or have a feminine demeanor. Remember, in cyberspace not only does the consumer enjoy anonymity but the subject in the personals can be anything or anyone they want to be.

I suspect that many are placing these ads not in hopes of finding a mate but searching for new sex partners. That's why they are specific about the requirements of those who are answering their ad. I'm not saying that all people who outline a specific body type or demeanor are only out for some "backyard" and/or "pipe". But one has to wonder why is body type and demeanor so important to those who claim to be searching for companionship?

I have known people who have placed personal ads on websites. Some of them are sincere about meeting a potential mate. But I also know people who have placed personal ads on the web strictly to find sex partners. I ran across an ad that was placed by a guy that I had a brief interest in two years ago. He told me before we ceased talking that he was not gay and that he would never kiss or be intimate with a man. He just liked the company and wanted to only have intercourse with masculine bottom men. He later revealed to me that he was still married, but was separated from his wife whom he still loved. Needless to say when I saw his ad he gave the standard spiel outlined earlier. I guess that he figured out that he was gay ... or has he? Is he looking for a relationship like he says in the ad or is he looking for another willing bottom for him to "hit"? Another person I know who placed an ad told me that his only interest is sex, not a committed relationship. He doesn't say that in his ad but he does give a clue when he outlines in great detail about what his respondent should look like. In addition, this person doesn't use his real name in the ad and maintains his deceit even when he makes phone contact with the respondents. He yet maintains his anonymity even when the person flies or drives in from out of town and sleeps with him by clinging to his assumed name. Another one of my friends said everyone he knows that has answered a cyber-ad and met them in person has wound up sleeping with them. But none have ever developed a relationship beyond sex. Apparently what has happened is that a number of these ads aren't placed for finding mates or dates. They are a form of cyber-cruising for new sex partners – much like the cruising that goes on at clubs, bars, adult bookstores and outside any club during a Gay Pride weekend.

At a certain level, using your personal ad to cruise the information superhighway for sex is as acceptable as cruising at a club or bar or park. This is a moral and ethical question rather than one of individual freedom. There is nothing illegal about searching for sex partners. But buyers beware! The authors of these personal ads will not tell you that sex, instead of love and commitment, is the motive. This is true of the person placing the ad and the person who responds to the ad. Not all people who place personal or respond to ads are pretending to be something they are not. Neither am I saying that people can't meet the perfect mate on the web and fall in love. It happens to some of us. But how likely are we to find "the one" from a web page?

Even if someone is sincere about finding someone, let's consider the odds of actually finding the perfect African-American mate on the Net. First, blacks are a numerical minority in North America. We as same gender loving males (and females) are a sexual minority within a minority. Further, we as blacks do not have the same access to the Internet as other ethnic groups, erecting another barrier. In

mathematical terms we're a minority to the third power. Again, how likely is it that we are going to find our soul mate on the net? Granted, people placing personal ads are launching their information to the entire world. Their ad is reaching people and places all across the globe. This obviously increases their exposure. But until you can actually get off-line and date that person, or at least share a physical presence it won't increase your chances of finding compatible mate.

The Internet is everywhere but it has no real home or owner. It is like air. It exists, you use it, but you can't see it. Thus, it invites illusion. Don't think that because someone has access to an e-mail account and launches a personal ad that they are more genuine than the people you meet in clubs or bars or any other social gathering. Charlatans are everywhere. In fact, it is easier to be outgoing and meet someone on the Internet than it is in a club or store or on the street. In those instances one can't assume a cloak of deception as easily as they can over the Net. You can be anything you want to be on the Internet. To that end, don't expect to meet your soul mate online. In fact, you are more likely to find your soul mate by "divine accident" or in place that you are not looking than you are on a website. There is a story in the Bible about the prophet Elijah who was looking for God in several places but God was not there. He looked for God in a strong wind, but Lord was not there. He looked for God in a fire, but God was not there. The servant then looked for God in the earthquake, but he couldn't find God there either. God spoke to him softly in a place and time that Elijah was not expecting. Many of us are looking for a mate, but he or she might not come in the manner that we expecting. We want to be blown away by a wind, or have our heart set ablaze by a fire or jolted by an earthquake when Mr. or Ms. Right comes along. In today's digital era we expect Mr. Right to see an ad, click a mouse, type a response, click the send button launching a sequence of numbers and codes over a telephone or cable line to your computer to be decoded by your internet service provider's software. Once the response gets to our e-mail account we expect to log on to find that the African king we have been waiting for has responded to our ad. Or we see the perfect person in an ad and we send e-mail to them. Have you ever stopped to wonder how many others have also responded to your selection? You have no way of knowing what kind and how much competition you have. Even if you meet someone in person rather than on the Net you may still have these concerns. But you stand a better chance of getting answers to your questions in person than you do over the Internet or the telephone. Is a picture and few words enough to peek your interest when there may be potential mates that you come in contact with almost everyday that you ignore? Personal ads on websites are to be viewed with a critical eye and with a bit of healthy skepticism. The very features that make these personals convenient are also the features that make answering these ads a gamble.

How realistic is it that we will find our soulmate on the net? It's not very likely. I'm not saying that it can never happen. Even Haley's Comet appears around every 76 years. But Your next love will probably appear in the form of a smile and a, "Hello, my name is ... What's yours?" instead of, "You've Got Mail!"

Clikque Magazine

poetry time

By: James Martin

Love Remembered

Tears for someone else
Forgiveness that never came
Changes in my life so strong that nothing about me is the same
My apologies fall on your death ear
The love of my life is not here
Too many mistakes made
In the lap of rejection my heart lays

Take it.....Take it

I'm born again
Reaching for love now that is deep within.....myself

I love you the same, but myself more
You are the physical love of my life
The emotional sun that warms my earth
I don't know you like I used to
I remember you as I want to
I only remember love

I can't hold or change you
I can remember you only in love

Between us words are not the same
Words are rarely even exchanged
No one wins or loses in this game
It had to happen....this unwanted change

You are with me even when I don't want you to be
You are unconditional love I thought I had
You are the love that haunts me.

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KNOW THYSELF and OTHERS

in the 21st Century"

By PHARAOH

Over the past decade I have been fortunate enough to develop a close circle of friends, which are not many in number. Because I value these individual friendships, I make it a point to send a card or a gift and make a call to say happy birthday. When I made a commitment to do this about five years ago, I noticed that the majority of my close friends and a few acquaintances had a birthday at certain times of the year. For example, during the first half of the year the majority of the birthdays were from April 26th through May 15th. Also, during the second half of the year the majority of birthdays fell between November 6th through November 16th. One other interesting thing I noticed was that a few individuals who I decided to pursue romantically had birthdays around the beginning of May through the middle of May. Two of them, who I would give it all up for, even have a birthday on the same day.

Now, I know for a fact that I am not the only one who "currently" experiences this phenomenon. A couple of my friends have experienced this as well, but in varying degrees. Before you finish reading the article, I suggest you consider making a notation, if you have not done so already, of the birthdays of your friends and the individual who set your soul on fire. You know the one who you would write hot checks for, draw down the savings account for, max out a credit card for, and let move in rent-free. How about the ones who can get "sum" from you anytime of day or night with no questions asked? Those are the individuals I am talking about in addition to your friends. Also, don't forget about the ones who could not resist you, even when you said, "...no, no a thousand times no!" Do you see a trend or a pattern with respect to your friends and individuals you consider to be significant others, or the ones who you desire to fulfill that role? Is there some tool or measure one can use to explain the level of attraction to or lack of, for someone else other than sexual, physical, and material indicators? Above all, it is also important to focus on yourself

and discover why you think and respond the way you do. Of course, as you may have already guessed, this discussion leads us to the subject of astrology.

The subject of astrology is questioned by some, although it has existed in civilizations such as Babylonian, Ancient Egyptian, Chinese, Greek, and Roman. It has survived the fall of empires and suppression of spiritual enlightenment. Accordingly, the Ancient Egyptians were the first people to foretell a person's character by the date of birth. It was considered to be a spiritual science, which involved the relationship between the larger universe outside of oneself and the personal universe within. To put it another way, it embodied the study and analysis of ten planets, which included the sun and the moon, but not earth, and their placement among the Twelve Houses and Twelve Astrological Signs of the Zodiac at the time of one's birth.

Shakespeare in his many allusions to astrology evidenced a deep interest in and a thorough knowledge of the science. He often interjects his connection to astrology in the play, King Lear, when he writes, "The stars above govern our conditions, and I was born sir when the Crab was ascending: all my affairs go backwards." Sir Frances Bacon said, "The natures and dispositions of men are, not without truth, distinguished from the predominances of the planets." One other, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Astrology is astronomy brought to earth and applied to the affairs of men." Therefore, one can see that the subject has had significant influences on the creativity and thinking of many great people.

Astrology is sometimes coupled with numerology. Numerology within itself has existed for over 11,000 years and has been recognized since the beginning of recorded history. It focuses on one's name at birth, in conjunction with the patterns of the individual's birthday vibratory force, and becomes the basis for giving attention to one's life's experiences. For starters, it highlights an individual's motivation, expression, and impression. In this context, motivation is what one consciously wants from life. Expression denotes one's natural abilities and potential, which are used easily for negotiating and getting what is desired out of life. Impression spells out fantasies and daydreams. It also highlights pinnacles that are peak experiences or opportunities available to make dreams come true and challenges that are obstacles, which may threaten one's success. Mentioned last is one other tool that is more modern than the other two, which is that of graphology or handwriting analysis.

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Graphology is the study of personality through handwriting. Its goal is to reveal personality traits and to gauge an individual's behavioral outcome. The belief that handwriting is a sign of the inner personality is a few hundred years old. The first serious attempt seems to have been that of Camillo Baldi, and Italian scholar, who published a book on the subject in 1622. During the same time frame, graphology was practiced as an art form by such literary figures as Goethe, Poe, the Brownings and Dickens. Graphologists look for certain features such as the slant of characters, the size of individual letters, angularity and curvature, and such non-graphic features as the pressure of upward and downward strokes. They consider handwriting to be frozen body language. It is a method in which self-discovery can occur like it can with astrology and numerology.

Astrology and numerology, which are complementary, and handwriting analysis are some tools that can be used separately or collectively to help one gain insight into her or his own personality as well as that of others. The more one happens to 'know thyself', the better one can control one's own life, and choose one's own destiny. Not only that, you can get to know those close to your heart a little bit better as well.

Continued FROM page 23

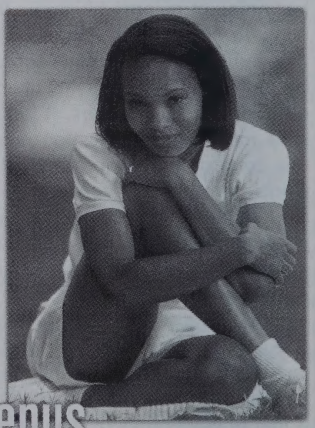
ing at my watch, at sometime I would have to get to the point. The food was placed on the table, and we were left alone for quite sometime. It was if the waiter knew we were there for serious conversation.

Simone said, "Venus let us get to the point because I realize we both have an early morning." Simone was nervous as she spoke. Venus appeared calm, and asked for direct eye contact when she spoke to Simone. Simone said, "we have this very intimate, dynamic, bond, and an unspoken sort of love without the sex you know?" We have known each other for years. I respect you and love you very much. As Simone spoke she could not help but notice Venus' beauty, the necklace she wore. She would continue to look into Sirnone's eyes as they spoke. Simone said, Venus you have seen me in my high, low, and in between times, "You have always loved me unconditional without many expectations." Venus said, "when you love someone it is unconditional and I love you that way." She continue to talk. Venus said, You don't have to tell me how you love me Simone I feel that love from you for years I have." Her voice was so silky, sentimental, and full of love as she spoke. Simone looked at Venus saying, "Why haven't you said anything all these years?" Venus said, "Simone you will not put that decision on me." I have wanted you for years to say these words." Simone wondered what was Venus really afraid of? Maybe the love she knew Simone wanted to offer her for years, an unconditional love. Simone was ready to go all the way with Venus, giving her body, soul, and heart, and anything else Venus wished for. Venus had water in her eyes as they continued to speak. Simone reminded Venus of a very intimate Valentine's evening they shared together last year. Simone said, "It was the most romantic, beautiful setting I had shared with a woman in a long time." "I recall the flowers, cards, cake, and the lovely dinner we shared." Upon returning to your home we had champagne and we opened gifts together. I remember how we stared into each others eyes, and at that moment I wanted to give myself to you. Simone said, "I wanted to give all of me, but I was very vulnerable then." I had just ended a courtship and I wanted to be totally sure I wanted all of you. Simone went on speaking, I cannot be in two places at one time, I have to be all the way in that one place with you. Simone asked, "Venus, baby do you hear anything what I am saying?"

Venus was silent she was still staring at Simone. Venus said, "I am not the easiest person to get along with Simone." Simone said "I know that Venus, but I love you truly. I could have told you this years ago. It was not time." Simone kept on speaking to Venus. "You need to hear all of this and I need to be allowed to say it to you. I will Love you always. Our night of Valentine's is recorded in my memory bank of beautiful memories. I have truly only loved three women in my whole life. You, Venus, I place at the top of the list." Venus was at that moment stunned or so, she appeared. Venus said, "Simone nothing will change between us. Our love and bond will grow stronger now, I assure you. As long as you expect nothing else from me." Simone placed her right hand to her chin as if she were thinking. Simone said, "No Venus I expect nothing else from you, and I will always love you." Simone was somewhat hurt at the moment. But, she was trying not to show this to Venus. Simone and Venus were both silent gazing into each others eyes. Simone was in deep thought. A dozen thoughts were rushing through her head about Venus and Michelle. Michelle was Simone's ex lover. Venus was not aware, but Simone had driven to Michelle's house unannounced two days prior. Simone would ask Michelle for a second chance. It was raining this day, while driving to Michelle's house she thought of Venus. She thought of how she truly loved her and possible longed for her.

Simone thought of the beautiful, romantic, friendly, loving moments with Michelle. Michelle gave Simone time, and she cared for her deeply. But, Michelle never told Simone she loved her. She showed this love all the time. Michelle hurt Simone deeply. Michelle knew this, so she cut Simone off on a face to face level. Simone was now hurt again at the table sitting with Venus. This was a different hurt. Simone had revealed years of unspoken love for this woman. She wondered if she had just broken the years of their bond, and a lovely friendship. Simone never told Venus the many secrets she and Michelle shared. Those were very private between Simone and Michelle. One Spring night at Michelle's while Simone was massaging Michelle's feet, a secret was revealed. Simone spoiled Michelle, she adored her. Michelle would raise up from the couch to enter her bedroom to get a letter and photo from a woman. Michelle was a tall chocolate, drop of a woman. She had the body of life, and she had lots of sex appeal. Michelle returned to the couch. She was now holding Simone's right hand and speaking to her softly. Michelle said, "Simone I have seen you two together, and you love her very much." "It shows in your eyes, and Venus loves you very much." Michelle said, "I don't have this kind of friendship and bond with my friends that you share with her. " This bond you two share is very deep, with many ties. Michelle went on speaking about a woman once in her life. They were still very good friends. Michelle said, "If circumstances were different she would have been my lover. The cards were dealt another way, so I love her the only way she will allow me." Simone was still very quite absorbing things. Michelle said, Simone this is okay with me. "I truly care for you deeply, but I have to be able to say I love you back." Simone had water in her eyes now, holding back the tears. Simone said, "Michelle I feel that love from you even if you never say it." There was a five minute pause. Simone said, "thank you Michelle and I love you always." Simone and Michelle parted ways two months after that conversation.

Simone came back to earth from her thoughts, speaking to Venus as they remained sitting at the table. Simone said, I guess we better get the check and go sweetie it's getting late. Simone got the attention of the waiter. They paid the check, and proceeded outside of the restaurant.



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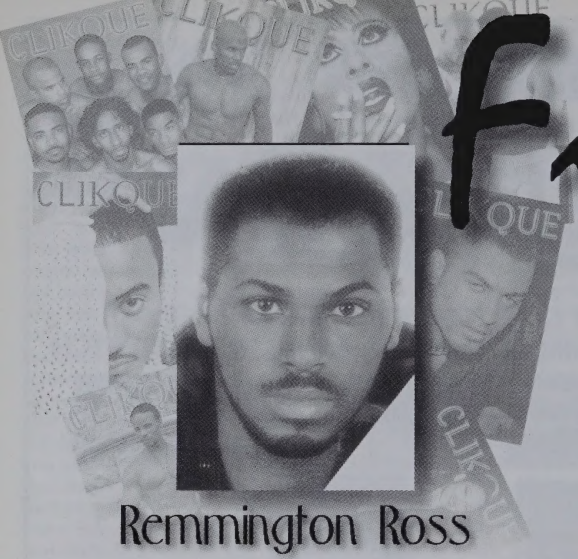
Simone didn't live very far from the restaurant. She wanted more time with Venus, but she knew not to ask. Simone was afraid of the answer Venus would give her. Both walking together in the rain in silence. They could only hear the rain and feel the cold on their bodies. Simone knew the bond and love would change now after this night. It would take a new form. They were helping each other get to the next phase in each of their lives. They were now at their cars ready to take separate roads home. They both turned to each other face to face. Venus looked at Simone and said "I love you." Simone said, "I love you too." Simone wanted to hold Venus tight. She recalled this sort of goodbye just eight months ago. Now she could only hope she would not receive the same tone from Venus as Michelle had given. Venus was truly Simone's girl and her ace in the whole. She would have to except the answer given at dinner. Because that love, bond, and friendship were too important. Venus got into her black Benz driving off in the rain. Simone sat in her aqua-blue Four Wheel Drive watching Venus drive off. She sat with tears streaming down her eyes. She thought to herself with a chuckle; "Damn a girl gets the boot twice in two days!" After all of these years of this unspoken love it was out now. Simone felt like the many women she watched Venus lust, sex, and probably love. She to recalled her dirt from her own past. So, she would not judge Venus because she loved her and they were friends.

Simone drove home slowly in the rain playing a Coltrane CD. Venus loved Coltrane's music. Simone was home now safely, and she got comfortable for the evening. She poured herself a glass of Chardonnay and put some nice Jazz piano music on. She pulled out several photos of she and Venus, and the Valentines card Venus gave her a year ago. She sat thinking of the many phone calls from Venus. Venus would say, "Simone I hope you know if you need anything all you have to do is ask." She thought of Michelle letting her go to truly find what Simone wanted in life. Simone thought of what she told Michelle after asking for a second chance; "I Love you always and I want you to truly find what you are searching for." "I will cherish this chapter in my life always Michelle." Simone continued to look through the photo album. There was jazz and scented candles in the background. Simone knew why she would not give herself to Venus that Valentine's night. She loved Venus too much, she was fearful of loosing that very intimate, dynamic, tantalizing, bond, and that unspoken love they shared.

Simone moved away a year after that dinner with Venus to the East Coast. She became very successful in her work in Politics and Journalism. Simone and Venus would remain good friends sharing a very intimate, dynamic, bond, and love. They continued to grow stronger together in their secret ties. Sirnone would be the Best Man or Best Woman at Venus Ceremony. Venus would take charge and always be there for Simone and love her the way she only knew and would allow herself. Sometimes they would fall asleep in each others arms in the spoon position. And Simone would have the neatest dreams. Simone has not bothered to think about what it is they share. She does not really care. What's important is two people love each other, and they respect what they share together. They are together always in mind, body, and soul. No boundry is big enough to keep true lovers and friends apart.



Fierce

The Column

Remmington Ross

The Prince Of Pageantry

Bon Jour Madam's and Misieur's it brings me great pleasure to introduce to some and present to others another article about the underworld of Gay Pageantry my focus is **FIERCE.** Let me start off by saying it is truly a passion of mine to take the time out of my schedule and give back to the community by keeping you abreast of what is happening from California to Atlanta. People are reading Clikque from Canada to Puerto Rico and if you visit us on the web site **www.clikque.com** we are all over the world.

Fortunately, I take the time out to get every detail possible (getting tea) by combining eye witness reports, judges opinions, and reliable reviews to determine what is worth reporting. October was busy month for collecting data. I would like to cover all systems results and happenings in every issue. First let me start off by saluting **Miss Florida** for being the oldest pageant system. Many of you still do not know that Miss Florida is older than Miss America owned by **Norma Christie.** The new **Miss Gay American** is a native Houstonian, her name is **Catia Lee Love** who now resides in Oklahoma. **Miss Gay USA at Large** was a success with over thirty contestants. It was held in Indianapolis, IN. **Victoria Parker** (The current reigning Miss Liberty Plus) was fourth runner up. **Leslie Ryan** the hometown favorite was third runner-up. **Kofi**, another Houstonian in the news was second runner up. Winning best production was another Houstonian **Chevelle Brooks** and first runner-up. The winner a former Miss Continental Plus- **Victoria La Paige.** Thanks goes out to **Tyra Brooks** for the eyewitness report. Miss Gay Universe at Large was held in Galveston, Texas, Oct. 22-23 with eight contestants. **Sosha Boom** won talent and was awarded first alternate. Winning evening gown, talent and spokesmodel was **Jill Jordan.**

If you are unfamiliar with any of these names or pageants it is because they are owned by Caucasian's. It would only be fair to include all pageant news in the gay underworld. I started out doing pageants in the Mr. USA system. **I have always had a Ross saying "that I do not need a black title to tell me that I am black. I can look in the mirror everyday and confirm that".** I have always been a versatile entertainer as well as owner of a few USA pageants. Therefore my love for pageants will always patronize the entertainers styles of USofA and Universe. After being involved in black entertainment for over ten years seeing the unity in Atlanta with national exhibitions has made me appreciate FUBU Systems (For Us & By Us).

In 1994, I attended the first Miss National FFI (For Female Impersonators) in Atlanta, Ga. I to this day have not been to any national pageants with as many powerhouse contestants, influential dignitaries and dynamic entertainers. **Tandi Andrews** was awarded Miss National that year. **Tommie Ross** was first runner-up and passed the title on to **Tasha Long** the following year. When dual title holder of Miss Black America and Miss Black Universe, **Paris Frantz** hit the stage, I thought that there was some type of confusion to have a woman on stage. After meeting Paris and Universe owner **Mr. Rande Matthew's,** I flew Paris to Texas for her very first Texas appearance at **Miss Essence 1994.** I also supported her in **Miss Continental 1996** and flew her again to **Miss Essence 1997.** When all opposition was against her I was still in her corner. I love her unconditionally and I respect that blood is thicker than water. May God continue to bless you.

Four years ago I fell in love with the **Black Universe System** and won Mr. Black Texas. It was a financial strain preparing for a competition over 800 miles away. I will always respect the Black Universe system for it's business and political views. I took a chance on entering a preliminary given by **Ron Taylor (Kasmere).** Each category was mine that night. Ron Taylor the original owner of Black Texas Universe recently passed away. I will always remember him, his business ethics, he taught me to always be prepared.

I spoke with **Archie Bonet**, the new owner of Universe and he is ready for the 9th annual competition to be held the last week in October. **Jacobie Ross** (Mr. Wolfindales - New Orleans) and **Tiffany Brooks** were both awarded the titles of Mr. & Miss Black Houston Universe, the last prelim and are on there way to competition. OH but V. I. V. A.! Viva, is the name of newcomer **Valerie Iman Van Augustine** who was first runner-up. She was electrifying in her performance and will be ready for any national competition. **Ty Young** was (1st alternate) in the male division. As results were called out the crowd disrespectfully booed the end results. Always remember who picked the judges and then see the owner or club that organized the event. But please do not act that improper in public, give respect to the participants because it is hard for entertainers to stand before an audience and entertain.

Once again **Miss Clikque Pageantry System** is on the move. On Octobert 8th, **Terry Lynn-Foxx** won **Miss Clikque New Orleans** and **Lawanda Jackson** (1st Alternate). Their both headed to Miss Clikque America in January in Atlanta. A big round of applause goes out to **Montreal Coleman** for organizing such a successful preliminary. Please call the Clikque office to get your tickets to see who will be crowned the first national queen of the New Millennium.

Tijuana Brooks, Miss Essence '99 reads every issue of Clikque and I would like to thank her for being supportive. She and **Black Velvet** (ME'94) who has a Master in Education will be hosting an interest seminar in December for Essence Pageantry System. The local pageantry system hosted the 37th Birthday party for **Bruce Chivers** at Incognito

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the Club. Trevon Ross, Mr. Essence 99, **Tijuana & Raven St. James** headlined this function with **Cookie LaCook** as Mistress of Ceremony. **Montel Alexander, Remmington Ross, Porsche Paris, Freda Payne, Ms Allegra, Chanel Nicole, Ashley Iman, Li Le (Mr. Stud Essence 99), Mr. Incognito Tevin St. James** entertained for the dignitaries and smiled for the camera. Good luck on your Diva Show **Rande Rochelle. Grover Fortenberry** has informed me that Rascals will be hosting their Woman of The Year Pageant (For Females only) on Sunday November 21 and Mr. & Miss Rascals Newcomer Contest on Thanksgiving.

Well in closing I would like to share with you a conversation that my God mother and the mother of Atlanta, **Niesha Dupree** and I had a few years ago. She told me that she moved to Atlanta from Mississippi to pursue her creative talents in entertainment. Sometimes it is essential to move in order to get your respect. I applaud **Tamish Iman, Jennifer St. John, Lawanda Jackson, The late Dan Hanks (my grandfather), Jasmine Bonet, Sophia McIintosh, Maxine Blue, Al Dupree, and the late Amazing Grace** for making that move in order to enhance their careers. Also I reflect on a conversation that Sophia and I had at the home of **Artesia Waters,** my best friend of twelve years. She asked me "Can you see your self on a national level as a king?" She said that anyone can be national, but get your priority together before following that dream. Well Sophia, now I am on another national stage and my platform is writing about pageants. The wisdom of Sophia, Niesha, and partner Bruce Chivers has taught me that no matter how much you are disliked, that enviousness, jealousy, backstabbing, and deceit can kill a person..., so I smile in the face of opposition.

Shouts out to **Dewayne Bonet** in Florida and **Antonio** in H-town. That's all for now and see you out "Crownscoping" at Black Universe and Black America.

Until next issue Respectfully, Ross

Miss Clikque America

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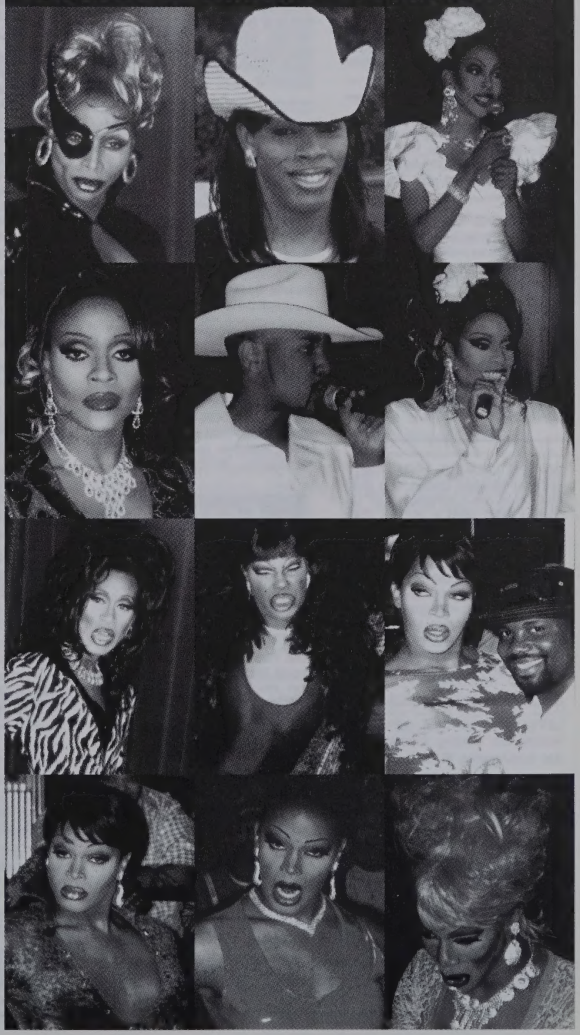

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Clikque Connection — Men Seeking Men

California

VERY ORAL Michael is a 30-year-old, good-looking, very oral, straight Guy, enjoys partying, having fun. Seeking well-endowed Male, for oral pleasure. ☎ 20253

TATTOED AND PEIRCED David is 5'8", dark/blue, tattooed, pierced, enjoys romantic evenings, movies. Seeking Male with similar interests. ☎19914

LET'S PLAY 37-year-old Male, 6'0", 170 lbs., enjoys ass play, partying, toys, fisting. Seeking Men in Los Angeles, the Valley, Palm Springs, San Diego, for mutual ass play. ☎13966

GOOD-LOOKIN GUY Matt is 6'2", 170 lbs., short brown/brown, washboard stomach, enjoys surfing. If this sounds good, leave a message. ☎13820

HOPE TO HOOK UP Joe is 6'1", brown/brown, smooth, Philippino decent. Seeking some hot action. (Los Angeles) _13963

e SM, 37, 6'0", 200 lbs., enjoys rock climbing, sailing. Seeking SM to have adventures with. ☎20016

BOTTOM LOOKING FORA TOP If you're serious and looking for a good time, leave me a message. Call me soon, I really need a hot top. (San Francisco) ☎14537

SHOW ME SOMETHING NEW Mexican-German M, looking for a friend to have fun with. I'm kind of shy and need someone to show me the ropes. If you're interested in showing some new ways to have fun, give me a call. (San Diego) ☎18549

LET'S HOOK UP SBM, 6'0", enjoys working out. Seeking someone special. (Los Angeles) ☎10037

MANIC PASSIONATE Heavy-set Mexican-American M, mid 30s, moderately hairy, beard, easygoing, laid-back, responsible, good-hearted and a romantic. Looking for muscular-stocky Latino/WM, late 20s-late 40s, with a good sense of humor. Muscular legs and hairy a plus. (Los Angeles) ☎17427

JUST ASK If you want a submissive, feminine M, who will do anything your heart desires, call me. (Victorville) ☎10798

I LOVE LATINOS Young, nice-looking GBM, new to the area, seeking Latino/HM, 18-24, with a respectable attitude. No Games. (Torrance) ☎15504

Floida

ROCK N' ROLL 21-year-old Male 5'6", 135 lbs., long dark hair, some piercings, enjoys rock 'n' roll and country music. Seeking sexy Man 20-24. (Miami) ☎13975

FUN AND MORE Very attractive, bottom, 5'11", 170 lbs, brown/blue, goatee, swimmers build, available for fun and recreation with top and versatile tops. (Gainesville) ☎17758

COOL SOUTH AFRICAN BROTHER BM, 32, 5'6", brown-skinned, hairy chest, looking to meet a very attractive top Guys, 23+, to hook up with. (Miami) ☎17779

BE MY GIRL 27-year-old BM, looking for TV/TS, who want to have a good time with me. Give me a call. (Jacksonville) ☎19173

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR 50-year-old GM, college-educated, looking for young, attractive, hairy WM, for possible romance. ☎14006

Georgia

KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW Jay is a 21-year-old BM 5'8", 150 lbs., bow-legged, straight-acting, masculine, very attractive. Seeking Male to chill with on the down low. (Atlanta) ☎19655

ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

I NEED IT REAL BAD Bi-curious BM, looking for someone to teach what this is like. Can you teach me? (Savannah) ☎20427

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

SKIN TO SKIN CONTACT Straight-acting Married M, 6'1", 200 lbs, long brown/blue, seeking slender, well-endowed BiM, who likes giving and receiving, oral and anal. Discretion expected and assured. Race unimportant. (Atlanta) ☎19150

CARING AND COMPASSIONATE Ricky is a 37-year-old Male 5'8", 190 brown/green, very compassionate, caring, loving. Seeking big, stocky, hairy Male 49-58. (Atlanta) ☎19956

NEW TO THE GAY SCENE 21-year-old Male, 6'0", 160 lbs., well-endowed, enjoys sports, movies, late-night talks. Seeking Male 20-40, with similar interests, for fun times. (Charlesboro) ☎14939

TAKING MY TIME Black-Native American Male, 5'11", 175 lbs., physically fit, well-groomed, college-educated. Seeking Male, slim, my height or taller, attractive, who enjoy working out, for friendship. (Atlanta) ☎13069

HIT ME UP SBM 28 looking for a Male companion to hang out and kick it with. (Atlanta) ☎12299

JUST HAVING FUN 39-year-old dark-skinned BM, looking for Guys, around my age, to hang out and have fun with. (Georgia) ☎17612

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT Straight-acting, Married WM, 30s, 6'1", 210 lbs, long brown hair, hairy chest, seeking a passive BiM, who likes X-rated videos and exploring. (Atlanta) ☎17748

IS THIS YOU? Jay would like to meet an out-going, sensitive, honest SM, who wants to have alot of fun. (Atlanta) ☎21956

LOW-KEY GUY Good-looking, in shape, 38-year-old GWM, 5'9", 165 lbs., stable, n/drugs, varied interests. Seeking SM for dating, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎21781

SEEKING SIMILAR BM Very masculine BM, 5'7", 150 lbs, attractive, muscular and looking for a muscular, masculine BM, for friendship and possibly more. (Atlanta) ☎21586

MUST BE DISCREET Looking for a straight-acting brother for friendship and possible relationship. If you're down with that, leave me a message. Peace. (Atlanta)☎20181

ISO A LIGHT-SKINNED BROTHER Black/Filipino/ Puerto Rican M, 21, 5'4", 130 lbs, blonde/brown, looking for a light-skinned brother, 21-28, who's tall and built with a gorgeous body. ☎19400

I'M ALL THAT Very romantic BM, 5'7", medium brown, likes movies, hiking and walks in the park. Looking for a BM, 18-30, to hook up with. No fats and no femmes. (Atlanta) ☎17447

HONEST, OUTGOING AND FUN 31-year-old WM, 6'1", 170 lbs, brown/blue-green, looking for Guys ,18-35, for friendship and possible relationship. (Waterboro) ☎14730

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP Looking for a nice, fun-loving Guy who loves dining out, movies and long walks. If this is you, give me a call. (Decatur) ☎13272

NO GAME PLAYERS Married, down-to-earth BM, 5'10", slim, D/D free. Seeking nice, out-going BM, 26-35, no games. (Atlanta) ☎19884

I'LL BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND 29-year-old, passable BCD, 5'9", 160 lbs, pecan-tanned, clean, discreet, ISO a secure Gentleman who knows what he wants and who has a sensitive side. (Savannah) ☎18756

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 lbs, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth Latino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick it with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, leave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

Illinois

CHAT WITH ME D is a 35-year-old Male, 5'11", 180 lbs., dark-skinned, well-built, attractive. Seeking Male to have fun or develop a relationship with. (Chicago) ☎20131

KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS Dontae is a good-looking GWM, 21, 5'7", 130 lbs., light brown/blue, great smile, well-educated, enjoys outdoors, clubbing, sex, drinking, smoking. Seeking good-looking, in shape, Male with similar interests. (Round Lake) ☎19278

Clikque Connection — Men Seeking Men

LET'S BE FRIENDS 36-year-old Black/Mexican Male, 5'7", 155 lbs. Seeking Male friend, 25-40, 150-160 lbs., must have transportation. (Chicago) ☎18282

NO ONE NIGHTERS 31-year-old, good-looking, in shape, intelligent Guy, HIV+. Seeking bright, fun to be with, good to look at, bottom Guy, 28-35 to date. (Chicago) ☎14293

TOTAL BOTTOM Gene is a 35-year-old BM, 195 lbs., 5'9", tight bottom. Seeking masculine, well-endowed top. (Chicago) ☎13538

GOOD LIPS? Steve is a SGWM, 38 seeking lover who's tall, dark and sexy. Must be special and have good lips. (Mount Prospect) ☎13320

NEED A HUG? Tall, masculine WM, seeking tall, masculine BM, with an insatiable desire to hug and be hugged. (Chicago) ☎21737

LOOKS UNIMPORTANT Smooth, well-endowed GWM, 27, 180 lbs, 5'10", black/blue, likes sports, movies, dining gout, going out and having fun. Looking for a Latino/WM, 20-30, for friendship or possible long-term relationship. Nonsmoker and social drinker referred. (Chicago) ☎20105

I LOVE DRESSING UP Very hot, sexy CD in Chicago, looking for someone to play with and have fun with in the area. Leave me a message, I promise I'll call you back. (Chicago) ☎13469

TOP SEEKS BOTTOMS Dominant WM, 45, well-endowed, attractive, looking for smooth, submissive bottoms. Race unimportant. ☎13324

Michigan

PEIRCED NIPPLES 21-year-old Male, 5'6", 135 lbs., goatee, shaved head, pierced nipples. Seeking Male 35+, hairy, daddy-bear type, facial hair a must, to serve and please. (Detroit) ☎20278

YOUNG MAN WANTED Masculine, attractive, dominant BM seeking young Male into a variety of things. (Detroit) ☎11101

SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT? Nice-looking BM, looking for a good-looking BM, 22-42, 5'8"-6', to hang out with and possibly start a relationship. Let's get together and get to know each other. (Detroit) ☎11266

I'LL DO ANYTHING Good-looking BM looking for a hardcore Man who likes to do anything. If you're interested, call me up and we'll get together. (Detroit) ☎19650

New York

BUTT BUDDIES Bob is a 55-year-old Male, 5'4", 145 lbs., stocky, crew-cut, top. Seeking Male for fun times. (New York City) ☎20021

HIT ME BACK Scott is 40-year-old Male 5'5", 130 lbs., brown/blue, mustache, Italian background, cute, hot. Seeking hot, in shape top Male for first-time fisting. (New York City) ☎15819

NASTY PIG Tony is a 38-year-old, Italian/Greek Male, well-built, hard body, muscular, well-endowed, enjoys fisting, watersports. (New York City) ☎13756

I LIKE LOTS OF THINGS 37-year-old M, really into oral and likes lots of things. Looking for an older Guy, 40-55, who would be interested in getting together with me. (New York) ☎19264

EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE Very active, good-natured, retired, daddy type, who wants to enjoy the rest of his life with a couple of young Guys. Must be W/H, 20s, 6'+, good-looking, reliable, health conscious, into working out and have six pack abs. (New York) ☎17556

Tennessee

GOOD, HOT SEX T.J. is a SBiWM, 6'0", 225-230 lbs., brown/blue, top, stocky, smooth, nicely-endowed. Seeking Gay or Bi Males, bottom, well-endowed, for good times. (Nashville) ☎19623

BORING GUY? 26-year-old BM, 5'11", 184 lbs., dredlocks, brown eyes, enjoys cooking, reading, running, cleaning, employed, dogs. If interested, leave a message. (Memphis) ☎21869

LET'S CHILL Sexy, brown-skinned BM, 6'1", 150 lbs. Seeking SM, for friendship, possibly more. (Memphis) ☎10531

JUST FUN 35-year-old WM, brown/blue, tanned, toned and looking to meet a BM, 21-35, in the Memphis area, for a no strings, hot, sexual relationship. (Memphis) ☎21822

Texas

VERY INTELLIGENT 21-year-old BM, 5'6", 185 lbs., brown-skinned, black/brown, enjoys movies, chillin with friends. Seeking out-going, adventuresome Male for friendship. (Houston) ☎22298

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED! Jimmy is 5'11", 225 lbs., brown/blue, muscular, well-built. Seeking a White She-Male, 21-40, good-looking, to be treated like a Lady. (Dallas) ☎21317

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

COLLEGE FRAT BOY LOOK Beau is 5'11", 160 lbs., brown/hazel, athletic, clean-cut, smooth, boyish, frat boy looking. Seeking Male 18-25, smooth, clean-cut, surfer boy, frat boy types are a plus. (Forworth) _14354

SEEKING SAME SBM 26, 5'8", 140 lbs, enjoys having fun, going out. Seeking SM 26-40, with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Houston) _18985

LET'S HANG OUT BM in mid-30s, 5'11", 155 lbs., athletic build, medium brown complexion, mustache, goatee, bald. Seeking slim, masculine Male, with similar stats, 19-32 to hang out with. (Houston) _13035

STRICTLY BI Jimmy is a 35-year-old WM, 6'0", 220 lbs., brown/blue, very handsome and well-built. Seeking Married Male 21-40, for discreet relationship. No gays please. (Dallas) _13415

NOT A SEX AD! 42-year-old GBM, 5'11", average-looking big Guy with a great personality, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times. Seeking SM sincere, genuine to form a monogamous relationship. No games (Dallas) ☎21673

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

SKIN TIGHT LEVIS Professional swimmer, 5'8", 140 lbs, tanned, muscular, shaved, looking for a down-to-earth Guy, who likes swimming, working out, music, having fun and a lot of body contact. (Dallas) ☎21475

IS THAT YOU? Young BM, 5'8", heavy -set, brown/brown, looking for that special someone to share life with. (Houston) ☎19892

TRYING TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE BM, 21, 5'9", 160 lbs, smooth, slender build, very attractive, masculine and outgoing, looking for some cool people to hang with. Not really looking for a sexual relationship, right now, just friendship. ☎19913

BI GUY PREFERRED BM, 25, 5'5", 140 lbs, nice body, looking for a mature BIM, 30-50. No fats and no femmes. (Houston) ☎12765

POSSIBLITIES Bottom GHM, 37, smoker, drinker who loves to please his partner. Looking for a top W/HM. If you would love to start a new friendship with the possibility of a long-term relationship. ☎21406

HIT ME UP! 21-year-old BM, 5'9", 145 lbs, attractive, sexy and toned. Seeking a masculine, muscular, attractive Latino/BM who want to get with me. ☎20366

Virginia

WILD AND DIFFERENT Straight-acting WM, 5'8", 140-150 lbs., smooth, clean-cut. Seeking Males to help fulfill fantasy. (Lynchburg) ☎20608

ARE YOU HORNY? Tim is a shy, reserved, discreet GWM 38, 6'1", 185 lbs., dark/green. Seeking Guys for hot, discreet fun. (Lynchburg) ☎22215

SEEKING SIMILAR Phillip is a BiWM, 5'7", 140 lbs., clean-cut, very smooth, good-looking, straight-acting. Seeking straight-acting Male with similar qualities, for good times. ☎20350

GET OFF ON THE PHONE Michael is a 38-year-old Male 5'9', 160 lbs., brown/green, well-endowed, hairy chest who enjoys phone sex. (New Kent) ☎13232

TO RESPOND TO ADS...

...Browse Or Retrieve Messages, Call The 900 or 800 Numbers Below

1-900-884-CLIK • 1-800-290-4346

To Charge To Your Local Phone Bill — To Charge To Your Credit Cards

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STEPPINGOUT

YOUR PREMIERE GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed here.

ATLANTA, GA

BACKSTREET ATLANTA
845 Peachtree Street (Rear Entrance) 404-873-1986. Always Open & Pouring. Membership Required * Membership Available. Hip-Hop Tuesdays w/DJ Biff

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025. Blackest on Fri. & Sat.

CLUB FUSION
550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR
W. Peachtree & 15th St., 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

THE MARQUETTE LOUNGE
809 Martin Luther King Dr. NW

THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THE SEQUEL
708 SPRING STREET, 404-874-825. OPEN SUNDAYS- WEDNESDAYS

THELMA'S PUMP ROOM
836 Juniper, 404-881-9230. Black on Friday Nights for the Best in Female Impersonation.

TRAXX NIGHTCLUB
306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422
Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays Nights Hip-Hop Dance Floor, House & Classics.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

LATROYS
316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE, NC

300 STONEWALL
300 E. Stonewall (at S. Blvd.), 704-347-4200

CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566

CLEVELAND, OH

DOMINOS
612 Prospect Ave 216-771-9020.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS
2909 Detroit Av., 216-574-2203. Black on Fri. & Saturdays

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

CLUB ENVY 216 N. Crowdus, 214-742-2708.

DENVER, CO

RAVEN 2217 Welton Street, Fridays & Saturdays

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

ZIPPERS
6221 E. Davison, 313-892-8120

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

GREENSBORO, NC

BABYLON 221 S. Elm Street, 336-275-1006.

GREENVILLE, SC

CLUB NEW ATTITUDE
706 W. Washington St., 864-233-1387

HOUSTON, TX

INCOGNITO- THE CLUB
2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS THE NIGHTCLUB
1318 Westheimer, 713-942-CLUB. Mostly Black Thursdays - Sundays from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS
200 N. Mills St., Downtown, 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

LOS ANGELES, CA

BOYTRADE-EL REY 5525 Wilshire Blvd.

CATCH ONE
4067 W. Pico Blvd., 213-737-1159. Blackest on Saturdays

STUDY
1723 N. Western Ave., 213-464-9551. Watering hole- Black Owned

MEMPHIS, TN

N-COGNITO 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MIAMI/FT. LAUD., FL

LA CAUGE 7900 First Ave. NE, Miami

COPA NIGHTCLUB
2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

CASABLANCA
Hallendale Beach - Off I-95 954-454-8400. Thurday Night all Black, Male Dancers

SUGAR'S
17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday

WATERFRONT
36th Street near Airport., Miami, 305-635-5696. Blackest on Tuesdays

NASHVILLE, TN

THE CONNECTION

901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

THE CHUTE COMPLEX
2535 Franklin Road, 615-297-4571 Blackest on Wednesdays

THE GASLITE
167 1/2 8th Ave.,615-254-1278

THE JUNGLE
306 4th Ave. South, 615-256-9411

NEW ORLEANS, LA

OZ
800 Bourbon Street, 504-593-9491. Opens 24-7.

WOLFENDALE'S
834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

NEW YORK, NY

CLIT CLUB
432 W. 14th St., 212-406-1114. Fridays only Women.

CLUB HOUSE
215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays.

CLUB DOWNTIME
251 W. 30th St. (Between 7th & 8th Ave.) 212-591-1622. Friday Nights for Women Only.

ESCUELITA
301 West 39th St. (Corner of 8th Ave.) 212-631-0588. Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

MANHATTAN MONSTER
80 Grove St., New York, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT
1 Front St., Brooklyn, 718-852-0139.

THE OCTAGON
555 W. 33rd St., New York, 212-947-0400.

THE WAREHOUSE
141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

NEWARK, NJ

MURPHY'S TAVERN
59 Edison Pl., 973-622-9176.

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT
120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

CABEL'S REEF
2272 Telegraph Ave..510-451-3777. Black dancing Fridays & Saturdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA, FL

CHERAKEE CLUB
1320 E. 9th Ave. 813-247-9966, Tampa, FL. Blackest Fridays

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

PHOENIX, AZ

INCOGNITO
2424 E. Thomas Rd., 602-955-9805. Blackest Friday & Saturday after hours.

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS
536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmond's African-American Club of True Diversity.

RUMOURS II
1008 North Blvd.,804-358-3838

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

THE ENDUP
401 6th St. 415-357-0827. Blackest Sunday afternoon.

THE BOX
628 Divisidaro, 415-647-8258. Multicultural

CLUB Q
177 Townsend St., 415-647-8258. First Friday of Month. Women's Party

TALLAHASSEE, FL

CLUB PARK AVENUE
115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

BROTHERS
926 West Tharpe Street, 850-386-2399. Black Nights-Fridays & Saturdays.

WASHINGTON, DC

BACHELOR'S MILL
1104 8th St. S.E., 202-544-1931.Black Men Dancing Thursday thru Saturday.

CLUB DIVERSITE
1526 14th St. N.W., 202-387-2338.

CLUB SECRETS @ 2:K:9
2009 8th St. NW, 888-594-WISE. Sundays 9pm-Until.

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St. N.E., 202-529-0626. Women on Fridays & Men on Saturdays.

THE EDGE
56 L St. S.E., 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

THE BIG HUNT
1345 Connecticut Ave. NW, Hip-Hop Club Sundays 5-11pm.

NOB HILL
1101 Kenyon St. NW, 202-797-1101. Very Friendly Crowd- Black Owned.

TRACKS
1111 First St. SE, 202-488-3320. Black on Friday Nights with Dancers Entertainment.

CLIKQUEBOOKSTAND

YOUR PREMIERE GUIDE TO SOME OF THE BOOKSTORES THAT CARRY CLIKQUE

Albuquerque, NM
Sisters and Brothers — 505 266 7317 — 4011 Silver Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI
Common Language — 734-663-0036 — 215 S. 4th Ave.
Websters/Nicola's — 734 662-6150 — 2607 Plymouth Rd.

Atlanta, GA
Brushstrokes —404 876 6567 — 1510 Piedmont Ave.
Charis Books & More —404 524 0304 — 1189 Euclid Ave.
Outwrite — 404 607 0082 — 991 Piedmont Ave.

Auburn, MI
Village Books — 360 715 3684 — 1210 11th st

Boston, MA
Glad Day Books — 617 267-3010 — 673 Boylston St

Brimingham, AL
Lodestar Books — 205 939-3356 — 2020 B 11th Ave.

Chicago, IL
Barbara's Bookstore — 708 848-9140 — 1350 N. Wells St
57TH Street Books — 773 684-1300 — 1301 East 57th Street

Columbus, OH
An Open Book — 614-291-0080 — 61 N. High St.

Dallas. TX
Black Images — 214 943-0142 — 230 Wynnewood Village
Crossroad — 214 521 8919 — 3930 Ceder Springs Rd.

Ft. Lauderdale, FL
The Pride Factory — 954-463-6600 — 400 N. Federal Hwy.

Grand Rapids, MI
Sons & Daughters — 616-459-8877 — 962 Cherry SE

Greensboro, SC
White Rabbit Books — 336 272 7604 — 1833 Spring Garden

Houston, TX
Oakland Marketing Inc. — 713 522-7988 — 1953 Richmond
Crossroads — 713-522-7988 — 1111 Westheimer

Ithaca
Borealis Bookstore — 607 272-7752 — 111 N Aurora St.

Key West, FL
Flaming Maggie's — 305 294-3931 — 830 Flemimg St.

Las Vegas, NE
Get Booked — 612-825-0336 — 4640 Paradise #15

Memphis, TN
Davis Kidd Bookstores — 901 683-9801 — 397 Perkins Rd.

Miami, FL
Lambda Passages — 305-754-6900 — 7545 Biscayne Blvd.

Minneapolis, MI
A Brothers Touch — 612 377-6279 — 2327 Hennipin Ave.

Nashville, TN
Outloud Books & Gifts — 615-340-0034 — 1709 Church St.

New Hope
Book Gallery — 215-862-5110 — 19 west Mechanic St

New Orleans, LA
Faubourg Marigny Bookstore — 504-943-9875 — 600 Frenchmen
Bookstar — 504 523-6411 — 414 N. Peters

New York City, NY
A Different Light — 800-343-4002 — 151 W. 19th St.

Norfolk, VA
Phoenix Rising — 757-622-3701 — 619-B Colonial

Orlando, FL
Out & About Books — 407-896-0204 — 930 N. Mills Ave

Philadelphia, PN
Giovanni's Room — 215-923-2960 — 345 S. 12th Street

Phoenix, AZ
Obelisk The — 602-266-2665 — 24 W. Camelback #A

Richmond,VA
Phoenix Rising — 804-355-7939 — 19 N. Belmont

Roanoke
Out Word Connections — 540 985-6886 — 114 Kirk Ave.
Carytown — 804 359 4831 — 2930 w. Cary St.

San Deigo, CA
Obelisk The — 619 297-4171 — 1029 University Ave.

San Francisco, CA
A Different Light — 415-431-0891 — 489 Castro St.

Seattle, WA
Beyond the Closet — 206 322-4609 — 518 E. Pike

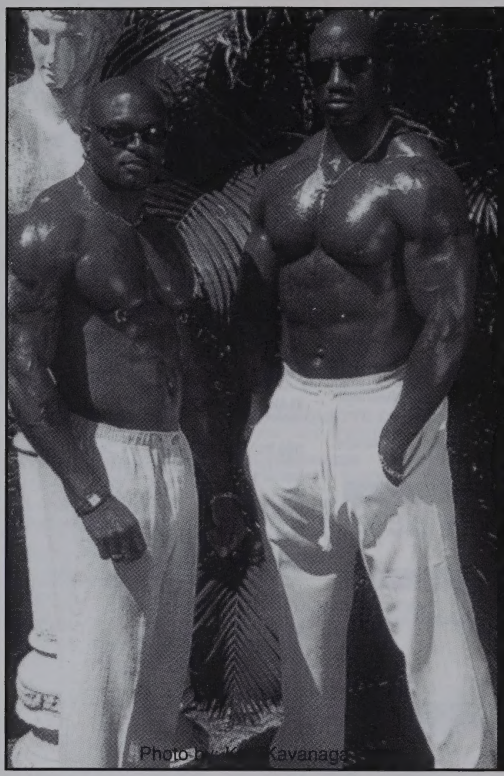
St. Louis, MO
Left Banks Books — 314 367-6731 — 399 N. Euclid Ave.

Tampa, FL
Tomes & Tresures — 813 251-9368 — 498 S. Howard Ave.

Temple Terrace
Books for Thought — 813 988- 6363 — 10910 N. 56th Street

West Hollywood, CA
A Different Light — 310-854-6601 — 8853 Santa Monica Blvd.

Washington, DC
Lambda Rising — 202-462-6969 — 1625 Connecticut Ave. NW
Vertigo Books — 202-429-9272 — 1337 Connecticut Ave. NW



Upcoming events for Bobby and Flex-Deon Blake

Thursday, November 25th, 1999/
Miami, FL/ Casablanca Nightclub/
Doors Open @ 11PM

Saturday, November 27th, 1999/
Miami, FL/ La Cauge Nightclub/
Doors Open @ 11PM

Saturday, December 5th, 1999/
Miami, FL/ Club Body Center/
Captivation Exotic Dance Performance
along with Special Guest- Adult Porn
Star J.C. Carter/ Time 10PM- Until

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WEEKLY LINE-UP

THURSDAYS

COOKIE LACOOK HOSTS SEE YA NEXT THURSDAYTALENT NIGHT
$100 Cash Prize • 21 & Up $3 B4 11 • $5 After • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events)

FRIDAYS

BOYZZZ NIGHT OUT •21 & Up FREE B4 11 • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events) • $1.50 Domestic Beer & $2.00 Well Drinks All NIght

SATURDAYS

DJ MOOKIE ON THE BOX
DANCE, DANCE, DANCE
Featuring Male & Female Dancers • 21 & Up FREE B4 11 • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events) • $2 Trash Can Punch

SUNDAYS

W /HOST GROVER FORTENBERRY SUPER SUNDAY SHOW
Featuring The Rascals Untouchables w/Host & Emcee Grover Fortenberry Showtime: 11PM • $3 B4 11 • $5 After • Under 21 Always $7 (Excluding Special Events)

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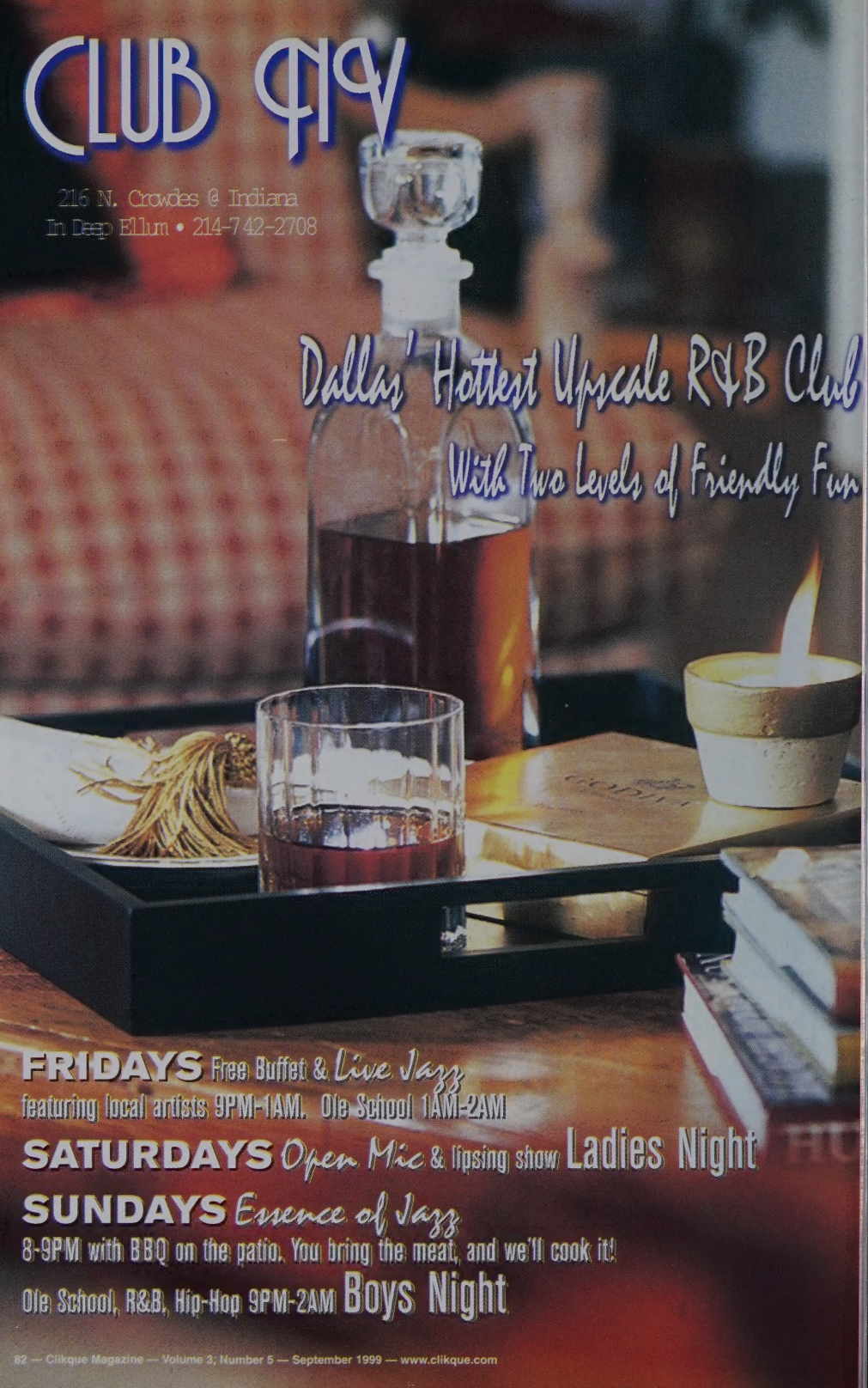
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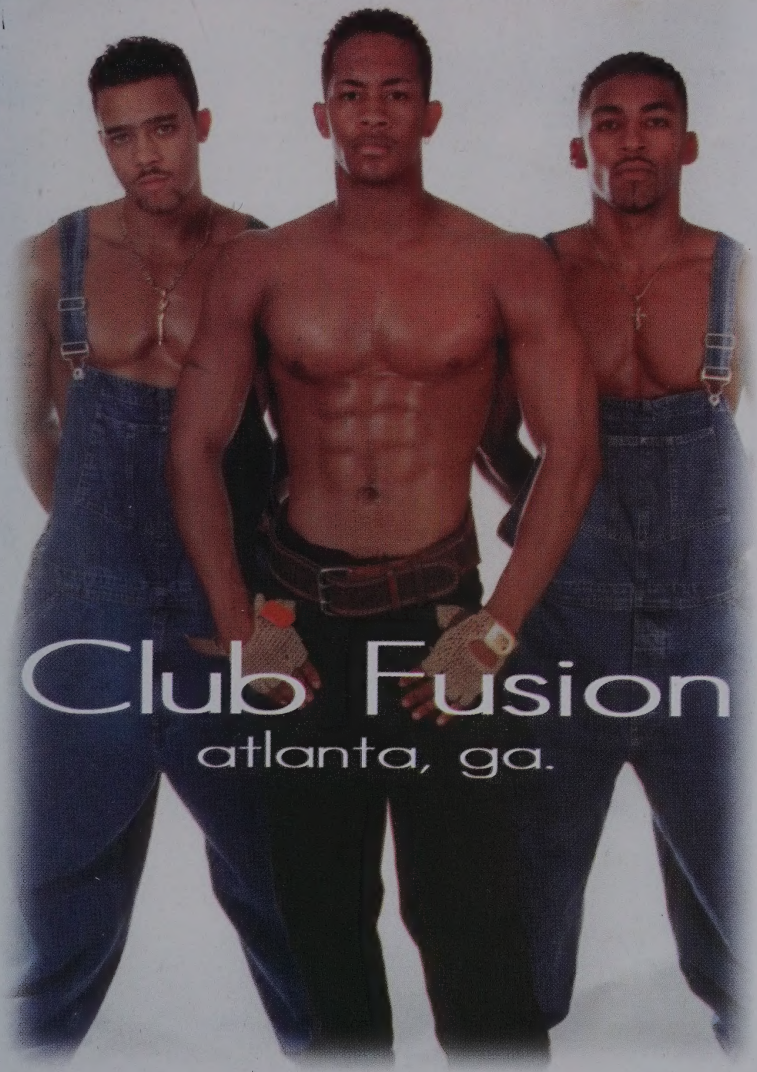
Dallas' Hottest Upscale R&B Club
With Two Levels of Friendly Fun
FRIDAYS Free Buffet & Live Jazz
featuring local artists 9PM-1AM. Ole School 1AM-2AM
SATURDAYS Open Mic & lipsing show Ladies Night
SUNDAYS Essence of Jazz
8-9PM with BBQ on the patio. You bring the meat, and we'll cook it!
Ole School, R&B, Hip-Hop 9PM-2AM Boys Night

550—C Amsterdam @ Monroe, • (404) 872-6411 • website: http:www.chocolatecityusa.com
EVENTS PROMOTED BY REGGIE THOMAS AND BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER

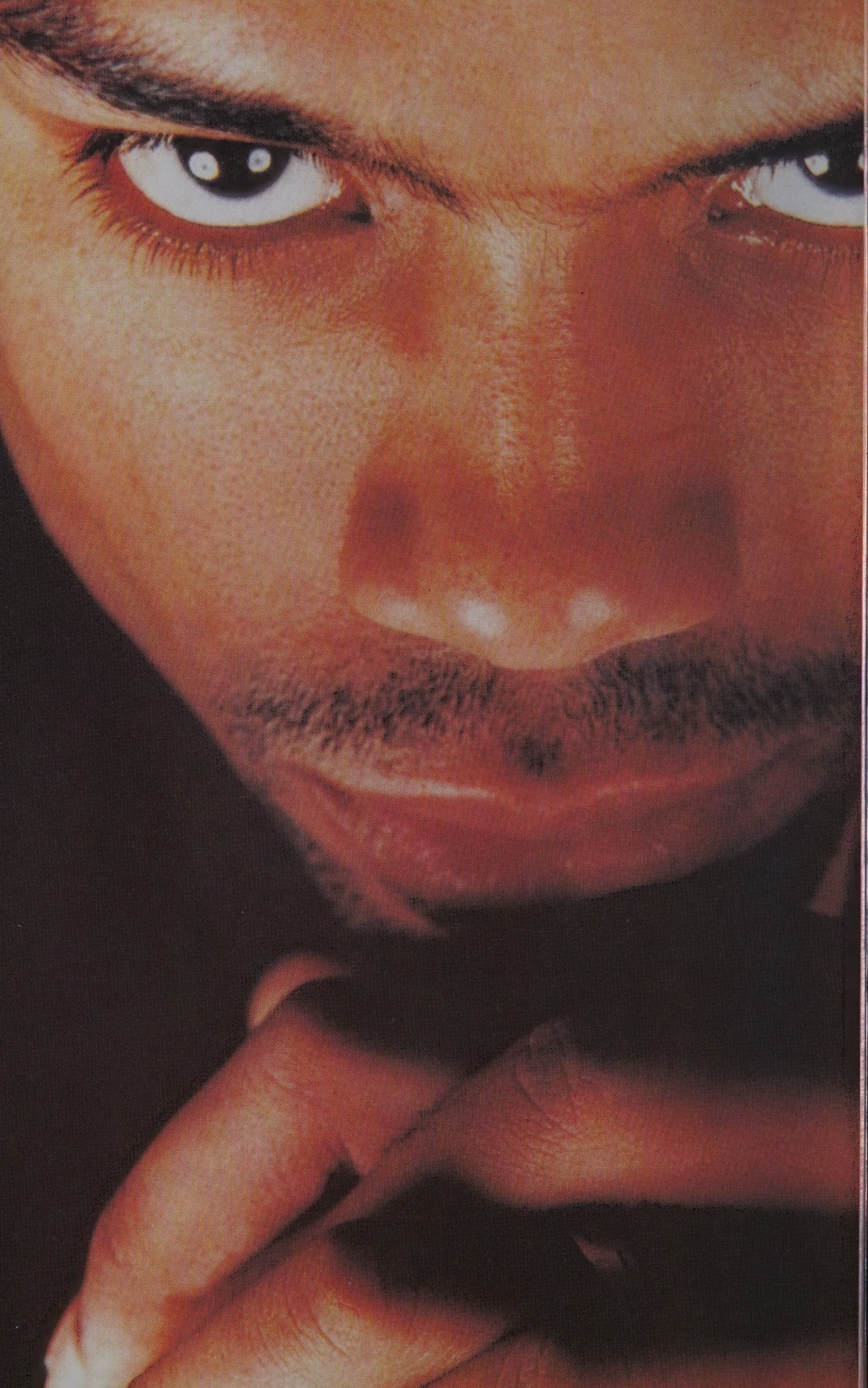


THURSDAYS: Ebony Flesh Male Review. House/Hip Hop with DJ Kevin Ford (Main Room)
Doors open @ 11 - Showtime Midnite — Hosted by Maxine Blue

FRIDAYS: B-Boy Night — DJ Sedric on the 5th and 19th — Res. DJ Kurt on the 12th and 26th - MAINROOM - HOUSE & RESIDENT DJ SMASH - HIP HOP - VYBE ROOM

HOT FUDGE SUNDAES: The Boys Are Back — Black/Latino Flesh Male Review.

— Every 1st Friday - $5.00 b4 1:00 and drink specials along with Zodiac night - get in free with id —
— Can Good Drive for the Needy - Reduced cover, if you bring a can good during the months of November and December —
— Upside Down Cocktail Hour - 1/2 off drinks from 3-4 every Friday —
— All college students receive discount with proper identification b4 1:00 every week —



TRAXX

Presents

Hot Boy Saturdays

Hot Boy Contest

"Can You Make Others Sweat?"

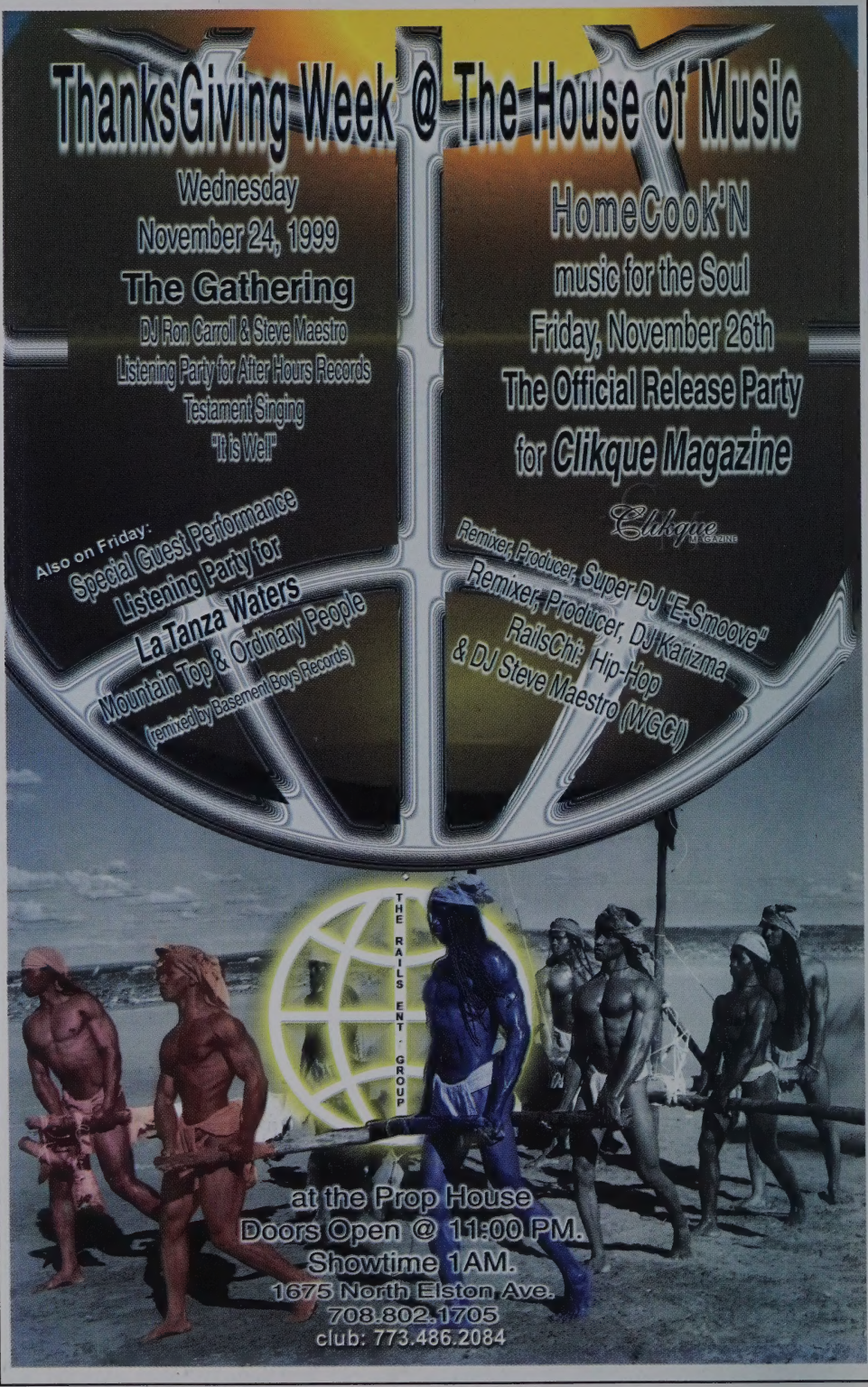
$200 in Cash & Prizes Every Week!

Sultry Go Go Boys Will Get Your
Temperatures Rising

Check Out
The All New Third Floor
- Promising Men, Men & More Men

Available for concerts, parties, pageants,
balls & fashion shows

306 Luckie Street-
(404) 681-4422
3 blocks west of the CNN Center,
Centennial Park
& the Phillips Arena in Downtown Atlanta


ThanksGiving Week @ The House of Music
Wednesday
November 24, 1999
The Gathering
DJ Ron Carroll & Steve Maestro
Listening Party for After Hours Records
Testament Singing
"It is Well"
Also on Friday:
Special Guest Performance
Listening Party for
La Tanza Waters
Mountain Top & Ordinary People
(remixed by Basement Boys Records)
HomeCook'N
music for the Soul
Friday, November 26th
The Official Release Party
for Clikque Magazine
Clikque MAGAZINE
Remixer, Producer, Super DJ "E-Smoove"
Remixer, Producer, DJ Karizma
RailsChi: Hip-Hop
& DJ Steve Maestro (WGCI)
THE RAILS ENT. GROUP
at the Prop House
Doors Open @ 11:00 PM.
Showtime 1AM.
1675 North Elston Ave.
708.802.1705
club: 773.486.2084

Mondays
STRIP TEASE
INCOGNITO
THE CLUB
Fridays
LADIES NIGHT
2524 Mckinney
@ Live oak, Houston, TX.
713-602-4506
Events Promoted By
The Infamous Cookie LaCook
"On Fridays, We Are Male Friendly"

The 15th Annual

Mr. & Miss Black America

The 4th Annual

Miss Black America Plus

Featuring:

Majesty: Mr. Black America
Yosmine Campbell Starr: Miss Black America
Amarda Korday: Miss Black America Plus

Categories:

Interview
Presentation
All that glitter, sparkle & shine - No Costume
Sportswear
Non-seasonal . No Mix Match
Talent
7 minutes & 3 minutes set-up
Evening Gown / Formal
No beads, stones, sequence
Question & Answer
Top 5 contestants

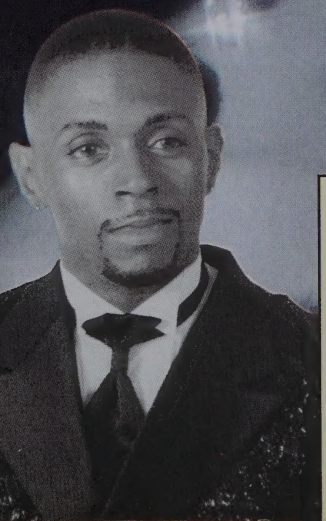
Entry Fee: $150

The Black America Pageantry System

Mr. Black America
& Black America Plus
Registration @ 2PM on 17th
@The Pyramid - 580 Whitehall St.

Mrs. Black America
Registration @ 2PM on 18th
@The Pyramid - 580 Whitehall St

For More Info Call
Gerald or Brian
678-309-0147 HM
404-405-6264 VM
770-566-2200 Pager



Preliminary Nights

November 17th & 18

9PM @ The Pyramid — 580 Whitehall Street
Downtown - Atlanta

Final Night

November 19th

7PM @ The Pyramid —
580 Whitehall Street
Downtown - Atlanta

The 6th Annual Mr. & Miss Club Colours Pageant 1999/2000

Saturday November 27th

Contestants will compete in the following categories:

Miss Club Colours
Color Presentation
Club Wear
Evening Gown
Q&A
Talent
*Color presentation will be one solid color

Mr. Club Colours
Color Presentation
Sports Wear
Formal Wear
Q&A
Talent
*Color presentation will be one solid color

Orientation @2PM

PRIZE PACKAGE
Winners: Over $1,500 in cash and prizes

First Runner Up
$100

Second Runner Up
Trophy

Cash Prizes For All Category Winners

For applications contact:
Frank @ 804-353-9776
or Randy @ 804-771-5044

536 N. Harrison St.
Richmond, Va

CLUB COLOURS

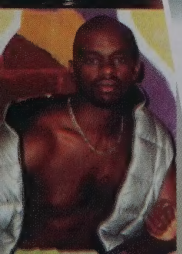
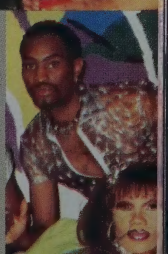
Coming November

17th

Mr. & Miss Club City Light

Studio 2000

Club City Lights – Jackson, Mississippi

Weekly Line-up

Fiercest Fridays
with L.C. Simpson, Jr.

Saturdays
Great Entertainment by duo Dee Dee LaBelle & Kianna Vanessia Van-Micheals

Sundays
Sunday Night Madness with Contessa DeMoria as "Auntee Messy Maggie"

200 N. Mills St.
601-353-0059
For Bookings Call Dee Dee LaBelle at 601-713-1551

Prizes:
Winner: $500
($300 Night of Pageant)
1st Runner-up: $250 + award
2nd Runner-up: $100 + award

Registration Fee: $100
Registration Deadline:Day of Pageant @12PM @ Club City Lights
For Further Details Call: DeDe Labelle 601-353-0059

Rascals Presents A New Thanksgiving Tradition

Mr. & Miss Rascals Newcomer Pageant

Thanksgiving Day,
Nov. 25th, 1999

This Could Be You!
For Non-title Holders ONLY!
Past or Present

Categories:
- Create your own presentation, you can provide your own
- music; less than 4 minutes please
- Evening Gown
- Formal Wear
- Talent

Special Guest
Onyx Onassis - Mr Rascals 1999-2000
Porsche Paris - Miss Rascals 1999-2000
Tiffany Brooks- Miss Rascals 1996-97

Emcee Cookie LaCook

Registration: Sunday 21st, 1999 @ 1PM
At Rascals
1318 Westheimer

For More Information Please Call
Grover Fortenberry or
Flawless Oz @ 713-942-CLUB
or 1-877-210-CLUB

RASCAL

ANOTHER ROCHELLE PRODUCTION

Necole

Niesha

Jasmine

Stasha

SOUTHERN DIVAS REVIEW

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 20TH

INCOGNITO

THE CLUB

Chanel

Tiffany

Porsche

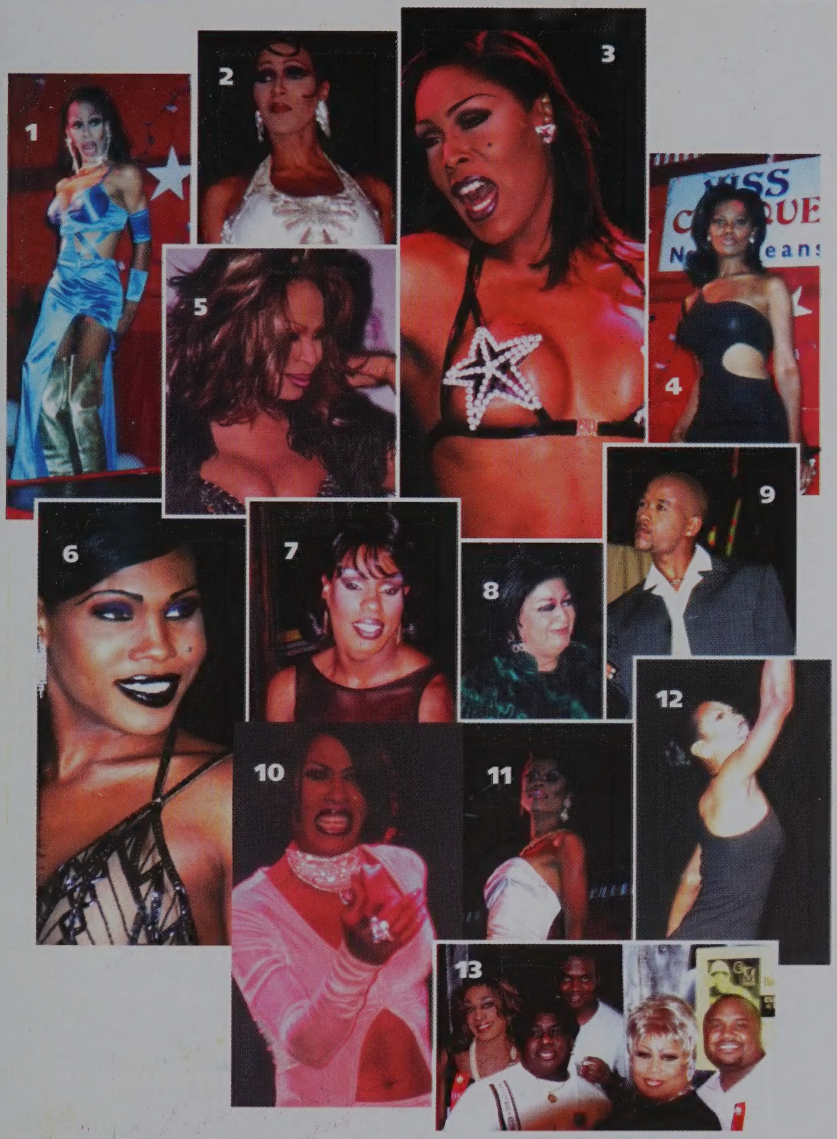
Chevelle

2524 Mckinney

@ Live oak, Houston, TX.

713-602-4506

The Scenery



1) Former Miss Rascals, Tiffany Brooks 2) Miss Clikque Atlanta, Paula Sinclair 3) Former Miss Universe 98/99, Raquel Lord. 4) Paris Frantz Performing Miss Clikque New Orleans. 5) Miss National Shawnna Brooks. 6) The Beautiful Miss Traxx, Nikki Bonet. 7) Comedian,Sophia Macintosh. 8) Houston's Finest, Cookie LaCook. 9) Very Talented Former Mr. Universe 98/99, Monte St. James. 10) Clikque Cover Girl & Newly Crowned Miss Universe, Necole Luv Dupree. 11) Miss Clikque New Orleans, Terryl Lynn-Foxx. 12) The Lovely Stasha Sanchez. 13) Judges at The Recent Miss Clikque Atlanta

Miss Clikque America Finals — January 12-14, 2000, Atlanta GA.

Call 404-817-3898 For More Details

MISS CLIKQUE AMERICA

Pageantry System

Congratulates

Terryl Lynn-Foxx

Miss Clikque New Orleans

Winner of our Third preliminary to the Miss Clikque America.

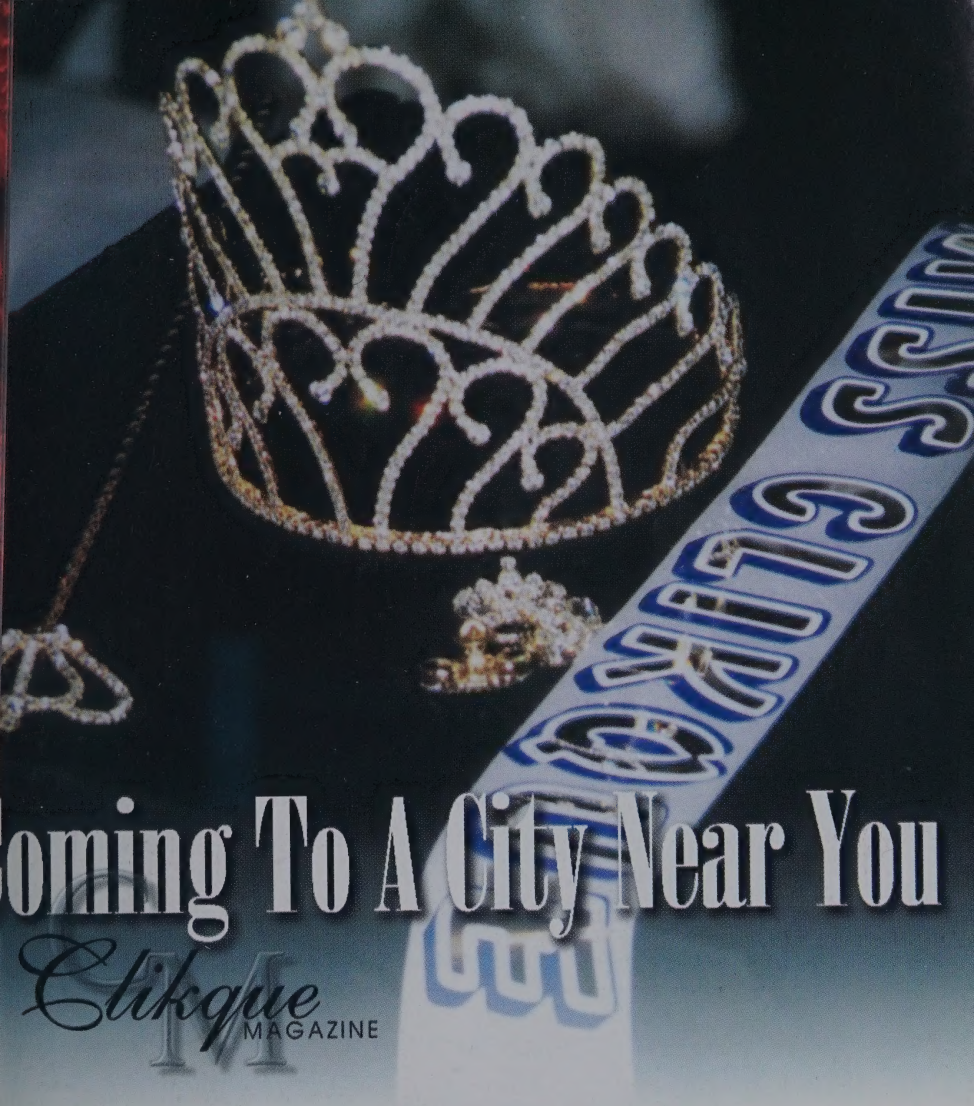
Congratulations is also extended to

Lawanda Jackson

Miss Clikque New Orleans
1st Alternate

See You Both In January 2000

1999 Preliminary Cities: Atlanta, GA ■ Birmingham, AL ■ Chicago, IL ■ Columbia, SC ■ Dallas, TX ■ Detroit, MI ■ Houston, TX ■ Jackson, MS ■ Jacksonville, FL ■ Memphis, TN ■ New Orleans, LA ■ Miami, FL ■ New York, NY ■ Philadelphia, PA ■ Richmond, VA ■ Washington, DC ■ *CALL 404-486-9655 FOR MORE PRELIMINARY DETAILS*



oming To A City Near You

Clikque MAGAZINE

JACKSONVILLE, FL
TUESDAY NOV, 23RD

Prizes:
Winner: $750
($300 Night of Pageant)
1st Runner-up: $200 + award
2nd Runner-up: $150 + award

Registration Fee: $100
Registration Deadline:Day of Pageant @ 12PM
@ Third Dimension

For Further Details Contact:
Azsia 904-724-9400

WASHINGTON, DC
SUNDAY, DEC 5TH

Prizes:
Winner: $600
($300 Night of Pageant)
1st Runner-up: $250 + award
2nd Runner-up: $100 + award

Registration Fee: $100
Registration Deadline: 1 Hr. Before Pageant @ Bachelor's Mill

For Further Details Contact:
Theresa Jackson @ 202-543-8618 or Shaun @ 202-253-0039

MIAMI, FL
MONDAY DEC, 6TH

Prizes:
Winner: $800
($320 Night of Pageant)
1st Runner-up: $400 + award
2nd Runner-up: $200 + award

Registration Fee: $100
Registration Deadline:Day of Pageant @12PM @ Whale & Porpoise

For Further Details Call:
954-537-3163

Rascals Presents An HIV/AIDS

BENEFIT SHOW

Keeping Hope Alive

Sunday Dec. 12th, 1999

10:30PM Sharp

GUEST OF THE EVENING ARE:

Tiffany Brooks
Chevell Brooks
Chanel Nicole
Montel Alexander
Big Yo
Trillions Devareux
Alfreda Payne
Nicole Roberts
Alantis Capri
Ashley Iman
Tevin St. James
Porsche Paris
Marlo Hunter
Demitreus Domino
Tyra Brooks
Sisco Hunter
Sadrin Ross
Sadrious Iman
Yolanda Adams
LiL Lee
True
Allegra Brooks
Trevon P. Ross
Onyx Onassis
Jacobie Ross
Chasity Brooks

We Need Door Prizes To Make This A Success Any One Willing To Make A Donation Please Contact Grover Fortenberry, Cookie LaCook or Flawless Oz.....ASAP

Rascals: 1318 Westheimer • 713-942-CLUB • 877-210-CLUB